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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

AUGUST 19, 1996

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Maclean's CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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Beyond abortion

A Manitoba judge's order that a 22-year-old pregnant woman addicted to sniffing solvents be confined to a drug treatment facility added a new twist to old arguments over fetal protection. Science, meanwhile, promises to leave the debate in the dust.



BONNA GRIFFITH/FIRST LIGHT

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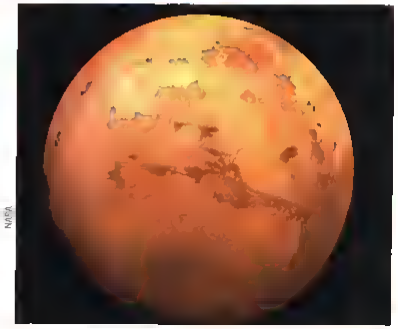
Golden days on the last frontier

One hundred years ago this week, gold was discovered in the Yukon, setting off the greatest gold rush in history. Today, people rarely come to strike it rich. But the Yukon continues to serve as a land of fresh starts, where people are free to reinvent themselves.

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Life on Mars?

In a stunning announcement, NASA scientists said they found the first compelling evidence of life beyond Earth. They believe a 4½-billion-year-old meteorite from Mars contains what may be the remains of not little green men, but a primitive microbial life-form.



NASA

COVER PHOTO BY ALEX BARTEL/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY/PHOTO RESEARCHERS

From The Editor

The powers of the pollsters



Former Conservative leader John Diefenbaker took a dim view of public opinion surveys. In the 1957 federal election campaign, having been written off because of a negative Gallup poll, he declared that polls were for dogs—10 days later he became the first Tory prime minister in 22 years. John Turner, an old House of Commons friend of Diefenbaker, also loved to make fun of the pollsters—and his own embattled leadership of the Liberal party. In 1988, he declared: "The latest poll shows 60 per cent of Canadians think the Liberals will win the next election. The other 40 per cent are Liberals."

These days, politicians are much less cavalier about public opinion surveys, if only because their findings animate most of their waking moments. Still, last week's announcement by Prince Edward Island Premier Catherine Callbeck was remarkable in its candor about the roll of polling. In a statement about her abrupt exit from the main stage, Callbeck said: "I cannot ignore the fact that my own popularity has declined." The 57-year-old premier's Liberal party had won all but one of the Island's 32 seats only three years ago. And now she was resigning because pollsters said she was the primary cause of a 16-percentage-point drop in Liberal popularity in only three months.



FRED CHARTRAND/CANAPRESS

Callbeck amid suited colleagues: remarkable in its candor

The surprise was that Callbeck actually admitted why she made her decision. Politicians are usually loath to acknowledge their own political mortality. In resigning, they cite health reasons or a desire to spend more time with their families, or proclaim that they have achieved their objectives. Callbeck did some of that, but weaved it back to the poll results: "Having come to a point where my goals have been achieved and my ability to serve is lessened by a decline in popular confidence, I believe the responsible choice is to step down, making way for the selection of a successor who better reflects the current wishes of the people."

Pierre Trudeau, the lofty intellectual and man of big principles, admitted after the 1974 election that he owed everything to his pollster: "All I had to do was what Martin Goldfarb told me." The tradition continued into the Mulroney and Chrétien eras, when no nit was too small to pick in pursuit of public opinion. When Jean Chrétien appeared to dither over the future of Sheila (Ban the GST) Copps, the delay just happened to coincide with a quickie poll in Hamilton showing that the deputy prime minister could resign and get re-elected in her constituency. The art of polling is even spreading to the former Communist bloc. Boris Yeltsin relied on U.S. pollsters to craft his recent re-election as Russian president. It is enough to make a voter wish for a simpler time, when politicians fought on, or went down with the ship—when polls really *were* for dogs.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

When readers write



Taylor: expanded letters

It past experience is anything to judge by, this week's cover on the moral debates surrounding fetal rights will generate strong reader response in the form of letters to the editor. Perhaps the response will even top the record of more than 300 letters, faxes and e-mail generated by the April 8 cover, "Is God a woman?" But stories that only appear inside the magazine, and *Maclean's* regular columnists, also draw considerable attention from correspondents who write in from places as distant as Port Union, Nfld., and Port Alberni, B.C.—as well as from such international locations as Japan and Botswana.

Weekly, more than 100 readers applaud what they believe the magazine has done well, take it to task for its perceived lapses, and engage each other in lively discussion of the day's issues. What they have in common, says Chief Copy Editor Ginny Taylor, who reads them all, is a desire to be heard on the questions affecting them and the nation. Since the magazine expanded its letters pages earlier this year, and added a new feature, The Road Ahead, the number of Canadians (and others) who have joined the conversation has increased steadily.

But Taylor reminds readers who wish to join the debate on the letters pages that they must include their full address and telephone number in order to be contacted by the magazine. If they want to be heard, readers need to be clear about where they're coming from.

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The Mail



Canada's relay winners Robert Esmie, Glenroy Gilbert, Bruny Surin and Donovan Bailey: heights of distinction

Canadian pride

Congratulations on the outstanding coverage and reporting of the Centennial Olympic Games. Unlike that of our companions south of the border, Canadian media coverage was thorough, unbiased and classy. In an Olympics marred by problems and commercialism, you elevated the athletes and their families to the heights of distinction they deserved. With respect to both the journalism and the athletics, I have never been a prouder Canadian.

J. Eric Selmes
Oakville, Ont.

Now that the Olympics are over, the question remains: how well did Canada do? A record for non-boycotted Games in terms of medal wins, and eleventh out of 79 countries that won medals sounds pretty good. It is of note that eight of the countries that did better have larger populations and thus a larger pool from which to find world-class athletes. On a per capita basis, the best performances came from Tonga, the Bahamas and Jamaica. Cuba finishes fourth and Australia fifth. Canada drops to 23rd, but the only country larger than Canada to do better is Germany, at 22nd. The mighty United States falls to 33rd place. How well did Canada do? It is after all a matter of point of view.

William R. Horne
Prince George, B.C.

'Computer intelligence'

Microsoft Corp.'s Bill Gates, as the computer genius of this decade, is turning the world around, but Allan Fotheringham seems still to be having trouble with his computer intelligence and in his fright and shallowness can only hit back with a petty and very dated assessment ("At the feet of the master of the universe," Aug. 5). Foth refers to "a language so obscure it could be Greek or Chinese." Wake up to the new world, Foth. It is obviously passing you by.

Ann Falkner,
Ottawa

He won, but why?

Thank you for helping the average Canadian understand Boris Yeltsin's recent election victory ("Why Yeltsin's victory was inevitable," Barbara Amiel, July 15). I have had the opportunity to spend some time in Russia and Ukraine before and after the fall of communism. Often living with the people in their homes, I personally witnessed the frustrations of the former Communist elite who, without their former perks, deeply desire the return of the old regime. Barbara Amiel, in clearly laying out the basics of Russian political thinking, has enabled people in the West to focus on reality. I only hope our government officials and diplomats are as insightful as they negotiate with Yeltsin and support the dawn of democracy in Russia.

Rev. William Ney,
Stony Plain, Alta.

Barbara Amiel's commentary on why Russian President Boris Yeltsin's victory "was inevitable" is one of the most pompously self-congratulatory pieces I have ever read. Apparently Amiel believes that the entire Western World could not quite grasp what she knew all along, and she distrusts experts who know only the facts. She will not allow mere facts to interfere with her own assumptions. Like Amiel, the experts have read Tolstoy, Pushkin, Turgenev and others. Unfortunately, 19th-century writers provide few real insights into Russia of the 1990s. Most of us predicted that Yeltsin would win, but for different reasons than those offered so glibly by Amiel.

J. L. Black,
Director, Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations,
Carleton University,
Ottawa

Sympathy and hate

What a sympathetic analysis of Canadians' togetherness in times of natural crisis, regarding the flooding in Quebec ("Tested by tribulation," From The Editor, Aug. 5). And what visceral hate and smallness in the same issue about Quebecor Inc.'s Pierre Péladeau ("Péladeau's power play," Business). The workaholic publishing tycoon has achieved success by abiding by two credos: give the customer what he wants, and KISS (for Keep it simple stupid). The latter is his insistence in getting and reading half-page résumés of all his dossiers. In short, he is essentially a shrewd, pragmatic businessman who successfully manages a publishing empire started from scratch. So why belittle him about his past personal and family affairs? Would it be because a nationalist French descendant cannot be accepted in our Canadian Establishment?

Paul X. Laberge,
Charlevoix, Que.

Teamwork

The CIBC-Scotiabank strategic alliance will save on infrastructure cost, and will not lead to large-scale layoffs as reported in your Aug. 5 issue ("Banks team up," Business Notes). In fact, the alliance will have minimal impact on employment in the near term.

Heather Whyte,
Director, National Media Relations
CIBC
Shelley Jourard
Manager, Public Affairs
Scotiabank
Toronto

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THE MAIL

Shallow pursuits

It is often pointed out that North American society fails to take adequate care of its elderly population. The cover article "The body builders" (July 8), about cosmetic surgery, casts a new light on this conception, albeit unwittingly. The obscene growth in the number of people willing to go to any lengths to preserve a beauty clearly and narrowly defined as youthfulness shows how much our society has suffered from a collective failure to acknowledge the dignity of age. Perhaps if, as in many other cultures, North American society boasted homes in which lived family members of all ages, we could aspire to create a society that was in fact, as well as in conception, egalitarian. Instead, the pursuit of eternal youth makes a mockery of a society claiming to value hard work and personal merit above caste and creed.

Jill Macdonald,
Colombo, Sri Lanka

In a very American way, you stated that Dr. Lloyd Carlsen of Woodbridge, Ont., operates "the only cosmetic surgery hospital in North America." Not really so. In Montreal, the Centre Métropolitain de Chirurgie Plastique is a 20-bed, three-operating-room hospital, created in 1973, dedicated to cosmetic surgery. So, there are at least two cosmetic surgery hospitals, unless, of course, someone considers Quebec as not being part of North America.

Dr. Charles Robert Tache,
Directeur general, Centre Métropolitain de Chirurgie Plastique Inc.,
Montreal

As I was reading, at first horrified, then amused, your report on people judging their worth by lines, sizes and shapes, one phrase kept coming to my mind: cogito ergo sum (I think, therefore I am). Maybe one day, those among us who are so inclined shall be able to take advantage of brain enlargement operations.

Roberto Paesso,
Banff, Alta.

Second debut

You say Ashley MacIsaac's fans have bought almost 200,000 copies of his 1995 debut CD, *Hi, How Are You Today?* ("MacIsaac's fancy footwork," People, July 29). What about those of us who bought his 1992 debut traditional recording, *Close to the Floor*? He may have debuted his "brightly dyed cropped hair" in 1995, but his fans have been around much longer.

Terry Whitmell,
Mississauga, Ont.

'The Jacob affair'

As a navy veteran of the Second World War, I have followed, with more than just casual interest, the fallout from the outrageous communiqué of MP Jean-Marc Jacob, sent to francophone members of Canada's military preceding the Quebec referendum last October, about which Diane Francis writes in her column in your July 22 issue ("Political correctness and the Jacob affair"). Thank you for this expose. Canadians, including all people in Quebec, should be made aware of this situation. The allegation of treasonous and seditious behavior by Jacob is a serious matter. It was not dealt with appropriately. The desire of members of the House of Commons standing committee on procedure and house affairs to protect their own hides and their party is shameful. To whom do they pledge allegiance when they are sworn in as MPs? During wartime, getting five days in the slammer to pick oakum was not uncommon punishment for failing to salute an officer on the other side of the street. Traitors were court-martialled. Jacob deserves no less.

Onve J. Anderson,
Victoria

As a retired francophone military officer and pilot who spent more than 26 years in the Canadian air force, I felt deep sadness as I read Diane Francis's column. Readers may pay little attention to her comment that a separatist ideology exists within the military, but it is true and very disturbing. In return for expensive flying training paid for by Canadian taxpayers, and a challenging and satisfying career, I felt absolutely obligated to repay my debt to my country by supporting and defending my employer, the government of Canada. Most regrettably, the total absence of military and political leadership has destroyed the military ethos to the point where, among some francophone military officers, support for separation became open, unequivocal and unquestioned. Disloyalty to Canada has become an accepted way of life within this privileged community. While I agree wholeheartedly with Francis's comment to eradicate the separatist element within the military, it will never happen—because of military inertia, political appeasement and public apathy. And the taxpayer suffers. Bravo, Diane, go get 'em.

Retired major Marc Simard,
Winnipeg

I subscribed to *Maclean's* to understand English Canada better. I want Quebec to remain part of Canada. In fact, I was president of the No committee in my riding in the last referendum. Unfortunately, the mad ravings of columnists like Diane Francis may accomplish what 30 years of Parti Québecois propaganda failed to do: convince me that there is no place for Quebec in Canada. The last straw was Francis's column on the Jacob affair. Suggesting a witch-hunt in the armed forces and "bouncing out of Parliament" a duly elected MP (even if you don't share his views) is sick, undemocratic and fascist. If the views of such columnists are representative of English Canada, the country does not stand a chance.

Pierre Dallaire,
Hull, Que.

Hold your horses

Your article "Sex and the modern athlete" (Cover, July 22) contains the sentence, "And then after they've competed, it's like, woah, throw caution to the wind." Woah? Is this a new word Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine is introducing to the English language? Or perhaps it's a misspelling of the word "whoa"—after all, short words can be tricky to spel.

Charles Crockford,
Waterloo, Ont.

New hope

Thank you, Peter C. Newman. Your column "Pier 21: the place where we became Canadians" was your most inspiring (The Nation's Business, July 22)—a very great tribute to "boat people," including my parents who arrived in 1910. It was also a most propitious column in this era of post-referendum trauma to give us hope for a united Canada in the future.

Donald E. Hunter,
White Rock, B.C.

Not amusing

The actions of the United States, and in particular the vitriolic rantings of Senator Jesse Helms, over Canadian business interests in Cuba, would almost be humorous were they not so tragic for the Cuban people ("Cross-border ban over Cuban investment," Business Notes, July 22). No one denies that the dictatorship of Fidel Castro must end. But that the United States, whose illegitimate embargo and decades-long Cold War with Cuba have in fact helped sustain Castro, should attempt to dictate to any other nation how to conduct business is the ultimate in hypocrisy, not to mention contrary to the spirit and word of international law. Were the bigoted, McCarthyist ravings of Helms to fall upon deaf ears, they would be amusing. But in an election year, they carry weight all out of proportion to their merit. I fear the Canadian government, in its infinite desire to never take a stand lest it offend a business partner, will talk much, but do little.

James R. Diaz,
Ottawa



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THE MAIL

Many-sided story

Bravo "Banker, Tiger, soldier, spy" (Special Report, Aug. 5) is an incredible story that bares Canada's foolishness in adopting Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil terrorists as conventional refugees. It has been no secret since the mid-1980s that Tamil terrorists have been funding their war for a separate state, Eelam, with millions of Canadian dollars collected through extortion, narcotics trafficking, refugee smuggling and forged passports. This Tamil story is unsettling. It is time that the Canadian government closed the barn door on these terrorists and showed some gumption and accountability to save Canada's innocence, civic sense and the liberties of our democracy.

Asoka Weerasinghe
Gloucester, Ont.

I find it offensive that *Maclean's* magazine has chosen to do a series of articles targeting Sri Lankan Tamils in Canada. In the spring of 1995, I travelled in Sri Lanka and went to war-torn regions of that country. I found women who had legs blown off by land mines after soldiers forced them to carry their children through mine fields; teenage children with their eyes burned by kerosene during interrogations; the family of a mother who was killed when she asked the police about her detained son. For the average Tamil living in a region the security forces operate in, fear of arbitrary and irrational violence is a daily routine. Many Tamils would prefer a more democratic alternative to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. But historically, the government has reacted violently to moderate demands made by Tamils. To say that they would all prefer to have a nonviolent government is to understand a normal desire all people have to live without fear.

Raoul Boulakia,
Toronto

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have recruited some shady characters living in the murky field of intelligence gathering and crime. Based on information that those people have provided, the police are painting a picture of Sri Lankans living in this country as guerrillas engaging in criminal activities. By publishing this highly inflammatory Special Report, you have aided in alienating the Sri Lankan Tamil population in Canada from the mainstream of society by presenting them as guerrillas, terrorists and criminals.

Prapaharan Thambithurai
Vancouver

The Road Ahead

Will Canada's aid count in Quebec?

When someone asks me what it means to be a Canadian, I say that it is to be part of a group of diverse, tolerant people who quickly come to the aid of those in need. Our helping hand sets us apart from other countries, and it makes me proud to say I am a Canadian. I wish it were the same for everyone.

I was watching the evening news recently when the top story of the evening was the massive flooding in Quebec. Premier Lucien Bouchard had called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the type of aid to be provided to the victims of Mother Nature's brutality. Ironically, the Quebec government made a plea for aid from the federal government. It said that as "Canadians," Quebecers had a right to funds allocated to the provinces for assistance during disasters such as these.

The morning news the next day again had the flooding as its top story. And again, I was dumfounded at the irony contained in the coverage. Quebec's environment minister, David Cliche, discussed the extent of the damage caused by the floods, as well as the dollar value of assistance being provided to the victims. During a live interview, he commented on how good it was that everyone was working together. Cliche was pleased to see municipal, provincial and federal levels of government operating as a team to help the victims. The reporter, clearly taken aback by the irony of the situation, commented that Cliche's remark sounded like support for federalism. The minister had no response.

Canada's reaction to the floods should make separatists realize that Quebec belongs with Canada. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien flew immediately to the disaster area to see the extent of the damage. The Canadian army was quick to respond and lend its helping hand. Canadians came together as Canadians to help other Canadians in a time of need.

If Quebec's separatists had won the October, 1995, referendum, Quebec would now be on its own. Where would it have turned for assistance? No longer a Canadian province, it would not have a "right" to the federal government's disaster fund. The Canadian army would be under no obligation to help. Quebec would no longer be the Prime Minister's concern, so there would be no need to rush there to see what kind of help was needed.

As a proud Canadian who believes that Canada includes Quebec, I hope that through this tragedy the separatists will realize that Canadians do want Quebec to remain within the country. Should separatists realize that, perhaps a great victory can be won from this huge disaster.

The Road Ahead invites readers to advance specific solutions to Canada's political, social and economic problems. Unpublished submissions may run condensed as regular letters or appear on an electronic bulletin board.

Natasha Lovenuk,
Ottawa

Maclean's
CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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Column



Diane Francis

Ottawa badly out of touch—yet again

Stéphane Dion, Canada's minister of intergovernmental affairs, upset a number of people with an article he wrote and that was published last month in major newspapers from Vancouver to Montreal In *The Ottawa Citizen* it ran under the headline "Distinct status for Quebec still has merit" Dion's article was disturbing because it meant that the Liberals in Ottawa have no clue, nearly one year after the Quebec referendum, as to how to handle the separatists They still do not understand that distinct society is as much of a nonstarter as it was during the Meech Lake initiative Besides flogging a dead horse in English Canada, Dion is suggesting that distinct society will appease separatists even though it is obvious nothing short of separation ever will

Dion's policy is insensitive to the will of the people. He admits that distinct society is "unoriginal and unpopular" in Western Canada because of the West's concerns that it would divide Canada into legal categories based on language and would "lead to some form of special status"

"These fears are unfounded," he writes "Many legal experts have testified that recognition of Quebec's distinctness would not change the division of powers between governments nor would it detract from the authority of the federal government or of any provincial government.

"What then would distinct society recognition do? At the legal level, its effects would be modest it would require the courts to interpret constitutional and Charter cases in light of Quebec's unique linguistic and cultural situation in an anglophone North America"

> Quebec separatists will always want more, and trying to appease them is folly, especially at English Canada's expense

On the one hand. Dion pooh-poohs concerns about special status, then admits it will result in "modest" benefits in court cases involving the interpretation of constitutional and Charter cases This would occur, he explained, because what is currently judicial convention would become a legal guarantee if the distinct society status were enshrined Dion then shifts his sales pitch to tap on possible widespread guilt feelings, arguing that distinct society status is a way for all Canadians "to express solidarity with Quebecers in their effort to preserve a vibrant and dynamic francophone society in an anglophone North America" and to "demonstrate to Quebecers" that English-speaking Canadians in other provinces support them in preserving the only majority French-speaking society in North America. "In my view," he writes, "this would go a long way to reducing the linguistic and cultural insecurity that is the root of the separatist appeal in the province of Quebec."

Canadians have shown extraordinary solidarity by electing three Quebecers as prime ministers for most of the past three decades. Canada's French-speaking minority already has more than enough protection for its language and culture, and nothing more needs to be done in this regard. The federal government is bilingual with lopsided francophone representation in many of its bureaucracies Besides that, Quebec declared itself a unilingual province in 1974 and has been taking away anglophone linguistic rights ever since Ottawa has allowed this to happen in order to appease the nationalists, but in so doing has only succeeded in whetting their appetites

Ironically, the linguistic minority in the country that needs more protection is the anglophone minority in Quebec For instance, shopkeepers must display signs in French, no matter what the language of their customers It is illegal for any employee to answer a telephone in English only, if he or she works for an employer with 50 or more workers

Then there is the human rights embarrassment involving Omar Abbas, a Grade 10 honor-roll student who had his English eligibility yanked last fall after nearly five years in English schools Abbas, who had been allowed to attend English schools as a temporary resident, was denied permission to continue his education in English after he became a landed immigrant. under Quebec's language laws only permanent residents whose parents went to English schools in Canada are allowed to educate their children in English

But Dion does not mention such issues He argues, in the name of preserving French language rights, for measures that may result in more such assaults on the anglophone minority's linguistic rights.

Dion's retreaded attempt at appeasement is notably irrational in light of remarks made by separatists after the referendum Premier Lucien Bouchard has repeatedly said that nothing short of outright independence would be acceptable, so English Canada need not bother coming up with solutions Naturally, this begs the question as to why the Liberals bother pushing distinct society again

What Stéphane Dion should do is to spread the message to francophones in Quebec that separatism is economic, and cultural, suicide I would guess that French would be immediately scrapped as an official language of Canada if part or all of Quebec left Dion should warn francophones about such dire consequences and stop threatening anglophones that we face doom if we don't hand over more privileges than are already available

Perhaps the explanation for this policy madness is that Dion and the Liberals never heard the story of an exasperated American businessman who asked a union leader what workers wanted in light of the fact that he had made huge concessions.

"More," replied the union leader

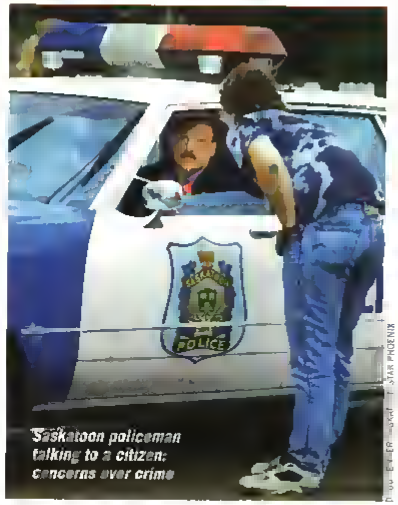
What the politicians of this country must understand is that separatists will always want more, as will other insatiable special interest groups. They must also understand that Dion flogs a very, very dead horse

Opening Notes

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

Saskatchewan's crime woes

Top cops in Saskatoon and Regina are perplexed by Statistics Canada's revelation that their cities are suddenly hotbeds of crime. Bucking a trend that has seen the crime rate drop on a national basis for the past four years, the two Saskatchewan cities have been seeing their numbers go up. In Saskatoon, crime overall was up 11.8 per cent from the previous year, while violent crime such as homicide, attempted murder, robbery, assaults and sexual assaults increased 11.2 per cent in the area; in Regina overall crime rose by 11.2 per cent. That compares with national figures that are down 4.2 per cent for violent crime, and one per cent for all crime. Senior officers in the two cities said several factors could have contributed to the numbers: a stubbornly high unemployment rate in Saskatchewan; judges who are too lenient with offenders, or simply questionable number-gathering that skewed statistics. As for addressing the situation, they pled for stiffer sentences for repeat offenders. "The maximum penalty for a breaken to a dwelling is life in jail," says Saskatoon deputy chief Norm Doell, "yet it seems to have been minimized to a misdemeanor." In Regina, Supt. Larry Toupin says bad guys are just not getting the message. He points to the example of nine people who were responsible for 66 per cent of auto thefts in a three-month period. One individual was charged with 60 thefts. "Police have managed to catch one person 60 times," said Toupin, "but the sentence hasn't changed the behavior."



Saskatoon policeman talking to a citizen: concerns over crime

PHOTO: BRIAN PHOENIX—SASKPOST

A four-legged friend in need

For a llama, it is quite a career shift from its traditional roles—source of wool or beast of burden. Now, psychotherapists are using the tranquil beasts to treat clients. When The Llama Therapeutic Group in White Rock, B.C., opens in September, it will pair the South American camelid with people involved in programs to alleviate trauma and stress. For one week at the group's ranch, a person learns how to live with one of the 350-lb. llamas, care for it, pack it, and then they go on a one- or two-day trek. Not all llamas are suitable, but they usually work out better than other animals. They are quiet, do not bite or kick, and are highly intelligent. Explains group founder Michael Loynes: "Llamas are animals that bond very easily and quickly with humans, and research in the United States has found that they help lower stress levels and are highly beneficial in dealing with trauma." Studies in U.S. prisons, for instance, have shown that assigning new inmates to care for llamas lowers the incidence of violent behavior during their first three weeks of incarceration. Loynes's program will initially be aimed at such high-stress public sector employees as firefighters and police officers, before branching out to the corporate world. "Llamas have a very strong aura that people take to," he says. "The emotional connection can help ground people." A new way to unburden.



Llama: 'a very strong aura'

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Murder most feline

The shooting death last week of Moochie the cat caused a storm of protest—from those who love felines and those who have had enough of them. There were no denials from Charles Sinclair, whose home is near Moochie's in Kanata, Ont., 20 km west of Ottawa, that he was responsible for suddenly ending all of the cat's nine lives. He caught the white-furred feline digging in his garden and, tired of destructive kitties leaving their litter among his lilies, took out a .22-calibre rifle and resolved the problem—permanently. Sinclair now faces Humane Society charges of causing distress to an animal and could face as much as a $2,000 fine or six months in jail. Police are looking into laying firearms charges as well.

But the fur really started flying when local newspaper letter-writers and callers to radio phone-in shows disagreed over whether Sinclair should be praised or vilified. One Kanata resident wrote to *The Ottawa Citizen*, "Bravo Charles Sinclair." The letter continued: "Although the method is regrettable, at least now the pest is gone. No sympathy here for the whining owners." Kanata Mayor Merle Nicholds also weighed in on the topic—with a politician's usual concern for voters. "It shocked me and shocked most residents," she said, "that someone would use a firearm in the middle of an urban area." For Moochie's owners, Eric and Suzanne Forgrave, who cared for the cat since she wandered into their lives six years ago, the shooting has caused a lasting wound. Moochie's death, says Suzanne Forgrave, has left a hole in their lives.

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. **Fall on Your Knees,** *Ann-Marie MacDonald (4)*
2. **The Tenth Insight,** *James Redfield (2)*
3. **A Crown of Swords** *Robert Jordan (6)*
4. **The Celestine Prophecy,** *James Redfield (3)*
5. **Servant of the Bones,** *Anne Rice*
6. **Accordion Crimes,** *E. Annie Proulx (1)*
7. **The Last Don,** *Mario Puzo (7)*
8. **Prayers for the Dead,** *Jonathan Kellerman*
9. **The Runaway Jury,** *John Grisham (9)*
10. **Anything Considered,** *Peter Mayle (8)*

NONFICTION

1. **Boom, Bust & Echo,** *David Foot (1)*
2. **The Dilbert Principle,** *Scott Adams (2)*
3. **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,** *John Berendt*
4. **Red China Blues,** *Jan Wong (3)*
5. **Enter the Zone,** *Barry Sears (5)*
6. **Simple Abundance,** *Sarah Ban Breathnach (7)*
7. **Clicking,** *Faith Popcorn (10)*
8. **Outrage,** *Vincent Bugliosi (9)*
9. **Hitler's Willing Executioners,** *Daniel Jonah Goldhagen*
10. **Emotional Intelligence,** *Daniel Goleman (8)*

() Position last week *Compiled by Brian Bethune*

Smoking out a story



In *Smokescreen: The Truth Behind the Tobacco Industry Cover-up*, U.S. journalist Philip J. Hilts uncovers a vast conspiracy to allay smokers' health concerns. Among his revelations, Hilts describes a plan by a Canadian cigarette maker in 1974 to capture the "young adult market"—a euphemism for children as young as 12.

Now playing at weddings everywhere

The *Macarena*, the catchy Latin line-dance phenomenon, owes a part of its huge international success to vacationing Canadians. The song—which has displaced the perennial favorite, *The Chicken Dance*, at countless weddings, bar mitzvahs and clubs across North America this summer—hit a pinnacle of sorts during the Olympic Games, when the U.S. women's gymnastic team choreographed its gala floor routine to the tune. It all started in 1993 in Spain, where Los Del Rio, a Latin-guitar duo that has been together for 33 years, recorded its 31st album, *A Mi Me Gusta*. It included a song about a neighborhood in Seville named after a revered virgin, Macarena. Its combined salsa-merengue beat soon made it popular in Latin America. There, holidaying Canadians heard the song at dance clubs and returned home with copies of the album. BMG Music Canada spotted the trend a year ago and issued a remix of the Los Del Rio version. And before anyone could say olé, the *Macarena*—ma-ca-RAY-na but routinely mispronounced as the macaroni or the maroon song—was taking off. Other non-Latino countries picked up on the Canadian success and it has now sold 2.6 million albums worldwide. There are also more than 15 cover versions worldwide, including ones in English, French and Polish.



Los Del Rio: writing a global hit

Rejection letters from royalty

WORD FOR WORD

When Kingston, Ont., Mayor Gary Bennett wrote to seven members of the British Royal Family inviting them to portray themselves in the annual Kingston Summer Festival's production of the popular English play The Queen and I, *nobody associated with the festival really expected any of the royals to accept. The play, which runs until Sept. 1, is a satire about royalty living on a housing estate after a republican government abolished the monarchy. Still, executive producer Nancy Helwig says the responses were notable for their goodwill. While Buckingham Palace wrote on behalf of all those invited—including Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Diana and Prince William—Prince Charles, Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother also sent their own replies. Some excerpts:*

From Buckingham Palace:

"I write to acknowledge your letters to various members of the Royal Family. Your suggestion was a kind one—and an unusual one—but I am afraid it has to be declined."

From the equerry to Prince Charles:

"Unfortunately, His Royal Highness's diary for the first eight months of 1996 has already been decided and he simply will not have time to visit Kingston. He is so sorry."

From the private secretary to the Queen Mother:

"The Queen Mother appreciated your invitation to take part in Sue Townsend's play *The Queen and I*, but Her Majesty fears she must decline.

"Queen Elizabeth has so many memories of her visits to Canada and Her Majesty wishes the Kingston Summer Festival every success."

Passages

APPOINTED: Former prime minister **Kim Campbell**, 49, as Canadian consul general in Los Angeles, by Prime Minister **Jean Chretien**. As successor to **Brian Mulroney**, Campbell led her Conservative party to a stunning electoral defeat in October, 1993—losing all but two seats in Parliament, including her own in Vancouver. Afterward she was a lecturer at Harvard University and this year released her autobiography, *Time and Chance*, about her rise to become Canada's first woman prime minister. As consul general, Campbell—since last February a lecturer in politics at the University of California at Irvine—will receive a salary of $117,000 to $142,000.



PETER GREGG—MACLEAN'S

WON: A $700,000 libel award by Toronto lawyer **T. Allen Eagleson**, 35, against the Toronto *Globe and Mail* and former *Globe* reporter **Al Strachan**, in Toronto. A jury found defamatory a December, 1992, column by Strachan, who now works for *The Toronto Sun*, that humorously suggested Eagleson—the son of former NHL Players Association executive director **Alan Eagleson**, who faces U.S. charges of fraud, embezzlement and racketeering—might be a candidate for general manager of two NHL expansion teams. The *Globe* is appealing the decision, the largest libel award ever against a Canadian newspaper.

WITHDRAWN: Superstar **Mario Lemieux**, 30, from Team Canada, three weeks before the World Cup of Hockey begins in Vancouver on Aug. 26. The Pittsburgh Penguins star, who led the NHL in scoring last year after taking 1994-1995 off to recover from treatment for Hodgkin's disease, said that he needed to preserve his strength in the event that he decides to continue his hockey career this season—a decision he has yet to make.

DECLINED: By the Supreme Court of Canada, to hear an appeal by Liberal MP **Roseanne Skoke**, 41, of a Nova Scotia court decision that awarded visiting rights to the father of Skoke's unwed daughter's two-year-old girl. The lower court said both the biological father and paternal grandparents can provide "a wider base of affection, pride, stability and assistance for the child."

DIED: Sir Frank Whittle, 89, British-born inventor of the jet engine; of lung cancer, in Baltimore.

BEYOND ABORTION



BY CHRIS WOOD

It is the closest thing to the miraculous most of us will ever know: the moment when an infant child, the embodiment of so many private hopes and fears, emerges wet, blue and bloody from a mother's womb, and with a cry of protest announces its new presence to the world. That is one reason why it is so difficult to feel removed from issues of human fertility and birth. There is an inescapable sense of meddling with the sacred.

Yet, increasingly, we do meddle. In part, we are driven by the innately human instinct to protect our unborn young. But our growing understanding of the biological events that precede the miracle of birth also compels us. At a pace that astonishes and sometimes disquiets, medical science is shedding extraordinary new light on how babies come to be. Under that illumination, we are discovering powerful new tools for manipulating life during its first nine months—and, through genetic intervention, even before conception. We are reaching new understandings about how our behavior as fathers or mothers may harm our children even before we take them, newly born, into our arms. And in an echo of the unique mix of exhilaration and terror that strike the heart of every new parent, we find ourselves profoundly ambivalent about our new knowledge.

Advances in science leave an old debate in the dust

Several recent events in Canada and abroad have added to the disquiet (page 20). In Manitoba, a young woman addicted to sniffing solvents successfully fought off, at least for the moment, an attempt by child protection authorities to protect the five-month-old fetus she is carrying by forcing her into treatment (page 16). In Britain, employees of fertility clinics began to thaw and systematically destroy up to 3,300 frozen, fertilized human embryos—each one representing at least a potential human life—that were no longer wanted by the women and men whose genetic material created them. And in Ottawa, federal officials sought the public's views on proposals to bring a burgeoning traffic in the building blocks of conception—human eggs and sperm—as well as in fertilized embryos and fetuses, under regulatory supervision for the first time in Canada (page 18).

What those divergent developments shared—apart from their power to unsettle—was roots in our new thinking about the first 40 weeks of life. Accumulating research into the effects of alcohol, tobacco and even caffeine on a developing fetus—effects that range from smaller birth size to permanent brain damage and physical deformity—has sharply increased pressure on expectant parents of both genders to modify their behavior.

Other medical innovations have even more dramatically changed our perceptions of the separate existence, moral standing and mutability of embryonic human life. Where once upon a time parents waited eagerly for birth to reveal the sex of their child, physicians can now select, from among half a dozen embryos fertilized outside the womb, the one that possesses chosen characteristics of gender or resistance to disease. Not satisfied to choose among the random genetic combinations of in vitro fertilization, other researchers are exploring ways to remove or insert individual genes into the 46 chromosomes that constitute the biological blueprint of each individual, hoping one day to weed out those responsible for genetic defects. The ability to store and transport embryos far from a mother's body without significant constraint, and to reimplant them later —often in the body of a different woman entirely—has created a new and ethically dubious commerce in potential human beings.

Still more disquieting developments lie just ahead. Japanese scientists have successfully used an artificial womb to gestate a goat. Their next step: the development of a human version. Other researchers have confirmed the feasibility of human cloning, although none has publicly acknowledged trying to bring cloned embryos to term as identical babies. Only slightly more speculative is a nightmarish but technically feasible procedure to extract eggs from aborted fetuses and fertilize them with sperm harvested from a cadaver—to create children of the dead and the never-alive. Not possible yet but likely soon to be: designer offspring created by selectively implanting genes for desirable attributes like intelligence or size. "When you think of the implications of what we're going to be able to do," reflects Roger Rittmaster, an endocrinologist on the faculty of Dalhousie University in Halifax and a former president of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, "it really is pretty interesting and scary."

Advancing science has left the law in the dust. On the narrow question of a woman's right to an abortion, Canadian legislation has been silent since 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the last law to restrict the practice. Three years later, the court found that a fetus, legally speaking, is without rights. But "rights" turn out to be different from society's "interests" in the same bundle of tissue. In draft legislation tabled in the House of Commons in June, the Liberal government moved to create an array of new protections for the latter. The New Reproductive and Genetic Technologies Act would ban 13 controversial practices, including the sale of human embryos. Circulating among physicians and interest groups last week were draft regulations that will follow if the act is passed. They would create a new federal authority to license nonprofit sperm banks and qualified researchers who wish to experiment with embryos less than 14 days old. Underlying the new legislation, Health Minister David Dingwall asserted, are two principles that reflect Canadian values: respect for the dignity of the human body, and a prohibition on commerce in human fertility.

But grey areas loom. Take pregnancy. Many would argue that no experience is more unequivocally a woman's natural right. But the lawyers who represented Winnipeg Child and Family Services in their application last week to force a glue-sniffing mother into a treatment centre are not alone in arguing that society is sometimes justified in dictating how a pregnant woman conducts herself. While a woman may have an unqualified right to choose whether to continue a pregnancy, says University of Manitoba law professor Bryan Schwartz, others have a legitimate stake in the fetus's health once she has chosen to carry it to term. For reasons both of compassion and economics—given the daunting costs of caring for a severely handicapped infant—he asserts that "society has an extremely high interest in protecting that child from preventable damage." Further, Schwartz argues that if a pregnant woman refuses to give up behavior that is certain to injure her child, "in rare and exceptional circumstances there has to be coercion" to protect the fetus.

Many feminists strongly disagree. Christine Overall, a professor of philosophy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., admits that "I feel the revulsion, too," at the horrific possibility of a woman subjecting her fetus to the effects of solvent abuse. But, she adds, "I nonetheless wonder what this might imply about the surveillance and possible future incarceration of other women. How many are you willing to lock up? How far are you willing to go?"

If that line is difficult to draw, then so is another. By its silence on abortion, Canadian law effectively allows a woman to undergo the procedure for any reason she thinks fit. But the expanding scope of prenatal diagnosis and genetic testing is providing women with ever more reasons to at least consider ending a pregnancy. Many might well choose to do so if they learned that their fetus carried a gene for rheumatoid arthritis, epilepsy or breast cancer. But what if the genetic marker were for some lesser problem, shortsightedness, say, or male-pattern baldness?

Eight years after the Supreme Court of Canada settled a woman's right to an abortion, defiant protesters still picket daily outside clinics in Vancouver and Toronto. And in the United States, the issue is expected to divide Republicans gathered in San Diego this week to nominate Bob Dole for president.

Meanwhile, some procreative options soon to be banned in Canada are readily available across the border. Ottawa would make it illegal to pay a woman to carry an implanted fetus on behalf of someone else—a practice known as surrogate motherhood. In the United States, surrogacy is viewed as just another fast-growing service industry. Infertile couples pay an average of $60,000 to have an embryo—usually fertilized in vitro—carried to term by a woman who typically receives less than a quarter of that fee. Prohibited from doing the same here, Rittmaster predicts, "Women will go and get surrogate mothers in the United States."

Scary and interesting indeed. Like first-time parents determined to do the best they can for a miraculous new life, we have little apparent choice but to go forward—praying that our wisdom will somehow keep pace with our exhilarating—and terrifying—new knowledge. □

Does a fetus have rights?



Former addict Carter with son Jamai: 'A person really, really has to be ready'

BEN KLOEP/MACLEAN'S

A sad Manitoba case reopens the debate

BY PATRICIA CHISHOLM

When Venus Carter realized she was pregnant with her fourth child, she knew it was time to confront her 15-year addiction to crack cocaine. Her three other children, although physically unharmed by her habit, had already been removed from her Toronto home by children's aid officials. And she was fully aware that the child she was carrying could be irreparably damaged by her drug use while still in the womb. But the power of the high was overwhelming. "This is where the word addiction comes in," Carter, 33, says. "You care, but you just smoke more to block it out." Finally, in her fifth month, she voluntarily entered a drug-treatment program. Her son, Jamai, was born five weeks early and weighed only three pounds, but luckily, the child, now almost one year old, appears to have suffered no other ill effects. "Jamai wouldn't be here if I hadn't stopped when I did," Carter says.

She is firmly opposed, however, to forcing pregnant, addicted women into drug treatment to protect their fetuses. "A person really, really has to be ready," she says. "To be forced into it, I don't think it's a good idea." Many Canadians disagree. Last week, a Manitoba judge drew wide praise for ordering that a pregnant woman addicted to sniffing solvents be confined in a residential drug-treatment facility until the birth of her child, expected in December. The order was stayed a few days later pending an Aug. 20 appeal, but the case—along with a raft of others in Canada and the United Kingdom—left many with the conviction that there are far too many unanswered questions about the haunting issue of fetal rights. In June, for instance, a mother from Carleton Place, a small community west of Ottawa, was charged with attempted murder after a lead pellet was found in the brain of her newborn son. The wound was inflicted just prior to the boy's birth in May. Her lawyer has argued that the case should not proceed to trial, because the rights of fetuses, if there are any at all, must take second place to the rights of their mothers.

What, many people are asking, is going on? How is it possible to permit abortion—and yet curtail the freedom of women who choose to carry their fetuses to term? "It's very complicated why we are acting this way," says Margaret Somerville, director of McGill University's Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law. "There are deep psychological roots to these situations because we're all ex-embryos and fetuses—there's a personal identification."

Deep emotion—and a sense of tragedy—certainly marked the appalling circumstances of the case faced by Manitoba Justice Perry Schulman last week. He was asked by Winnipeg's Child and Family Services to order that a pregnant addict be confined to a drug treatment centre until the birth of her child. The 22-year-old woman, who cannot be identified because her three children are wards of Child and Family Services, has been sniffing paint thinner, glue and other solvents for eight years. Two of her children suffered neurological damage as a result of her addiction. Last week, observers outside the Winnipeg courthouse described the woman's own physical state as poor: she walked with an unbalanced gait, was shaking and incoherent and appeared devastatingly thin, especially for someone in the fifth month of pregnancy. Members of her family said that she sometimes does not eat for days on end. A close-knit group of 12 brothers and sisters, they strongly supported the application, filing two petitions with the court. "It's destroying her, everybody can see that, and it's destroying her baby, too," an older sister told reporters.

Elizabeth Selick, a lawyer and spokeswoman for Child and Family Services, says the agency has tried for years to help the woman with her addiction, but without success. "Finally, we had to ask, how many badly damaged children does a person have the right to bring into the world," Selick mused. "It seemed to us that this was such an extreme case that we had to do something." Schulman of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench appeared to concur. He faced a major hurdle, however, because of a 1991 Supreme Court of Canada decision that held that a fetus has no legal rights. As a result, Schulman tried to protect the mother—instead of attempting to protect the fetus. The court was entitled to use its general powers to order her into treatment, he ruled orally, because she was not capable of adequately caring for herself. Full written reasons are expected this week.

Her lawyer, Winnipeg counsel David Phillips, countered that there is no basis for such a ruling unless the person is found to be mentally incompetent. And in this case, a psychiatrist's report clearly concluded that the woman is in touch with reality and fully capable of making her own decisions. "It is dangerous to use very, very general powers of the court to make this kind of order," Phillips told *Maclean's*. He acknowledged that courts sometimes bend the law in order to reach an ethical conclusion, especially in the face of extreme public pressure. The problem with that approach, he said, is that society ends up with flawed laws that are difficult to apply with fairness in subsequent cases. And there is little doubt, Phillips says, that if the decision is upheld, it could lead to many more such applications. (Late last week, the Manitoba Court of Appeal granted the woman leave to appeal and stayed the order against her until the appeal can be heard, such stays are routinely granted.)

Much better than a case-by-case approach to the problem would be a new, carefully considered statute, Phillips suggested, so that any duty to protect a fetus is carefully balanced against the rights of the mother. Apparently sensitive to such criticisms, the Manitoba government announced at the end of last week that it is looking at other ways to guard against maternal neglect, including amending the provincial Child and Family Services Act.

But whatever Manitoba decides to do, it is likely that there will be growing public pressure across the country to provide at least some protection for the fetuses of addicted women. At the very least, some say, the state is entitled to step in when the alternative is a disabled child who is likely to require enormous social support in



Winnipeg solvent ab...

FRED GREENSLADE/W. INN. FED

areas such as special education and health care. "It is also important to remember that, without intervention, these children may be doomed to a life of misery," noted Jacques LeCavalier, head of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. Distressingly, the number of such children—while still not high—is clearly on the increase. A report published this year by the Metro Toronto Research Group on Drug Use found that the number of newborns damaged by drug abuse in the Toronto area had increased almost seven times to 74 between 1986 and 1994.

Researchers are also continuing to uncover a frightening range of potential disabilities and health problems in such infants. Among them: mental retardation caused by sniffing solvents, deformities and neurological damage resulting from fetal alcohol syndrome, and the low birthweight, premature birth and stillbirth common among children of cocaine users. Even smoking can cause serious, long-term impairment. "The children of heavy smokers can be physiologically compromised," says Anne Pastuszak, assistant director of the Motherisk program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, a counselling service for pregnant women. "They have to stay in hospital longer and are more apt to develop respiratory infections. They're sicker kids—that's the basic bottom line."



TOM HANLY PHOTOGRAPHS

Drummond: an air-gun pellet in her baby's brain

Courts sometimes decide to bend the law

The obvious question, of course, is how to reconcile this growing awareness of the complexities of life before birth—and society's increasing willingness to intervene on behalf of a fetus—with the unfettered right to abortion. Ever since 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Canada's abortion law was unconstitutional, abortion has been available without any major restrictions. In 1991, the Senate defeated a bill that would have criminalized abortion unless a doctor concluded that a pregnancy would threaten a woman's physical or psychological health. That same year, the Supreme Court ruled that two midwives could not be found criminally responsible in the death of an unborn child because a fetus has no rights.

Abortion-rights activists say that is exactly the way things should remain and they are adamantly opposed to the implication—raised by the Manitoba case—that a fetus has legal rights or that its interests should ever outweigh those of the mother. "One of the greatest concerns is the notion that the fetus and the woman are separate and have conflicting priorities," says Amanda LeRougetel, Winnipeg-based president of the national Canadian Abortion Rights Action League. "If this case opens the door to a general discussion of fetal rights, it will have done something that the original players never intended."

Anti-abortion groups believe that is exactly what it does, and they welcomed Schulman's decision as long overdue. "This case is an educational opportunity—the average person in the street now understands that this is a baby that is being damaged," said Winnipeg's Ann Desilets, executive director of the national anti-abortion group Alliance for Life. But she questioned how fetal rights could exist alongside the right to abortion. "Why is it that, if a child is wanted, it is a patient, and if not, it's OK to get rid of it? Why do we have that dichotomy?"

McGill's Somerville agrees that on the surface, at least, that does create a deep inconsistency. The only way to resolve it, she says, is to appreciate the history behind abortion: the law was originally liberalized, she points out, to redress the inequitable treatment of women. "In the past, women were just vehicles to have babies," she says, "with no right to control their body or their fate." But if the pregnancy is to be carried to term, she says, then attention shifts from the woman to her developing fetus. At that point, she says, it is entirely understandable to feel concern for its welfare. Looked at from that point of view, she concludes, Schulman arrived at the right decision, even if it lacks a sound basis in law. "I think we need to allow more discretionary decision-making by judges," she added. "I worry that we have reduced everything to the tight hand of the law."

Not so fast, say legal experts at the other end of the philosophical spectrum. Kathleen Mahoney, professor of law at the University of Calgary and a specialist in human rights, believes that the Manitoba decision is a profoundly disturbing one that, if upheld, could erode the hard won rights of women. It is crucial, she says, to preserve the full rights of the mother throughout the pregnancy. Otherwise, she warns, society could find itself on a slippery slope where a wide variety of women, from those who follow a poor diet during pregnancy to others who live in dangerous environments, could be subject to control. "And that is not an extravagant argument," she says. "All of those things have happened throughout history."

Still, it seems that there will always be cases where the heart demands to be heard, even at the expense of principle. In May, 28-year-old Brenda Drummond gave birth to her third child, Jonathan, in the bathroom of her Carleton Place townhouse. The baby was taken to hospital, where his condition deteriorated rapidly. three days later, doctors conducted a brain scan and found a pellet from an air gun lodged in his brain. There were no signs of an entry wound. Drummond was subsequently accused of shooting the baby shortly before his birth and has been charged with attempted murder. In June, she began a month-long series of psychiatric tests. In the meantime, her husband, Paul, who works at an Ottawa car dealership, is caring for the couple's two other young children. The Drummonds are also trying to regain custody of Jonathan, who is in the care of the local children's aid society.

Drummond has been charged under an obscure section of the Criminal Code that allows for murder charges to be laid if a child is injured before or after its birth and dies after being born alive. That principle has its roots in civil law, which has long permitted anyone harmed while still in the womb to sue for damages. But according to Lanark County Crown attorney John Waugh, the Drummond case also falls on new, still developing legal ground. He will argue, he says, that a fetus does indeed have rights and that if one is injured, an offence has been committed. "And if there is no such protection," he added, "there will be a hue and cry that some new law should be put in place."

But defence counsel Lawrence Greenspon is equally adamant that the case must not be allowed to become a moral slugging match. Under Canadian law, Greenspon says, the rights of the mother always take precedence over those of the fetus. Ethical discussions, he adds, are inappropriate. "We are not in a debating society, we are in a court of law." Such is the world of lawyers. But it is equally obvious that the entire question of life before birth and how it should be treated will require urgent public discussion—well into the next century.

With LUKE FISHER in Ottawa and DANYLO HAWALESHKA in Toronto

'THEY DEAL IN DEATH'

On a blisteringly hot and humid weekday afternoon, at the corner of Gerrard and Parliament streets in tough inner-city Toronto, about a dozen derelicts seek refuge underneath the trees surrounding the fountain of a small, dirty park. A disheveled man, a terry cloth clenched to his nose to stem a thick tide of blood, nonchalantly strikes up conversations with anyone willing to listen. Nearby, Rosemary Connell, a 45-year old elementary schoolteacher, stands alone at her post across the street from the Cabbagetown Women's Clinic, carrying a placard that reads "Abortion is the taking of a human life" and "Adoption is a loving option." Connell says she offers women who visit the clinic to terminate their pregnancies several alternatives to abortion. With a nod towards the clinic, she adds: "They offer them only one solution—'We'll kill your baby.'"



CHRIS SCHWARZMACLEAN'S

Connell picketing: 'They offer only one solution'

The debate over fetal protection may have shifted to different ground, but foot soldiers of the anti-abortion movement, like Connell, are still picketing abortion clinics. During the summer, Connell drives from her home in Lindsay, Ont., 150 km northeast of Toronto, to take up her post twice a week, for up to six hours a day. She is one of a handful of anti-abortionists who watch the clinic year-round. Restricted by court order to picketing 18 m from the front door, Connell asks passersby whether they would like more information about abortions. If they do, she hands them pamphlets about how her group, The Way Inn, can help pregnant women with advice on housing, finances or adoption. She approaches women arriving at the clinic, determined to change their minds. Connell, who has eight children, four of them adopted, says she places great faith in "the unbelievable strength women have for caring for children—given a little support."

Her efforts meet with a mixed reception. Some people decline her invitation to learn more—one woman simply grabs the material and moves along without pausing. A man yells unintelligible comments from across the street. They have something to do with women, babies and not being able to pay for them. Connell ignores him. She says that sometimes it is better to just let things pass. "Some people use very foul language and tell us to back off," she says.

Inside the clinic, Dr. Manole Buruiana is the lone physician. "I know how to cope," Buruiana says. "I just shut the door." Patients, however, are often desperate, he says, and having them accosted compounds an already trying situation. "This is a surgical crisis unit, a psychological crisis unit," he says. "Patients need support and what do they get? They get the bullshit outside." Connell paints a different picture, saying she does not force herself on women. Sometimes, she resorts to a prop to convey the impact of an abortion. It is a plastic doll of a 10 week-old fetus, about two inches long. She also dislikes the use of the word clinic, preferring "abortuary"—a hybrid of abortion and mortuary. After all, Connell says, "they deal in death."

DANYLO HAWALESHKA

LOOKING FOR MORAL ANCHORS

Modern science has opened broad new avenues to the estimated half-million Canadians affected by infertility. It also offers the possibility of motherhood to women who have no fertile partner—or no partner at all. And it has given new hope to couples who are concerned about passing congenital diseases on to their offspring. But new technologies have also provoked ethical, social and legal questions. And when it comes to the rights of fetuses or sperms or eggs, says Alister Browne, director of the division of healthcare ethics at the University of British Columbia, "the moral anchors we put down by ethical theory don't give us clear guidance."

Both in vitro fertilization and donor insemination, though, are already widespread in Canada. There are approximately 19 in vitro clinics in the country, and last year an estimated 500 to 700 babies were born using that technology. Doctors generally use fertility drugs to induce ovulation, then remove eggs from a woman, fertilize them with sperm and place them into her uterus. Most of those clinics also do donor insemination, placing donor semen in a woman's vagina or uterus. But that practice—which is estimated to produce several thousand children each year—is also done elsewhere, including in physicians' offices.

Various permutations of those procedures—as well as other reproductive technologies—have provoked vigorous debate. In June, federal Health Minister David Dingwall introduced legislation that would ban 13 uses of new reproductive and genetic technologies, including sex selection for non-medical purposes, cloning of human embryos, or research on embryos later than 14 days after conception. The legislation would also ban the buying and selling of eggs, sperm and embryos, as well as any so-called commercial surrogacy arrangements, where a woman carries a fetus created through artifical insemination or in vitro fertilization, and either she or a broker receives payment. Dingwall also announced that he plans to introduce further legislation to regulate other uses of reproductive technologies including those involving in vitro fertilization.

Yet even as some questions are being addressed, new ones are threatening to emerge. In 1988, a Supreme Court decision in effect allowed abortion under any circumstances, three years later, the Court explicitly stated that fetuses have no standing under Canadian law. But experts predict that, eventually, the issue will again be put to the legal test—with possibly far-reaching implications. "If you accord legal rights to the preborn," says Dr. Douglas Kinsella, director of the office of medical bioethics at the University of Calgary's faculty of medicine, "then the entire legal decision-making process about [embryo] experimentations, about everything related to new reproductive technologies, will have to be reconsidered." Clearly, those new technologies will continue to be the subject of complex questions—even as they offer solutions to Canadians seeking the simple joys of parenthood.

MARY NEMETH *in Calgary*

When one fetus lives and one dies



Bennett: better to 'leave one alive than to lose two babies'

MARK KENDE/EXPRESS-ARCH VE PHOTOS

The unnamed woman is 28 years old and a single mother to one child already—although the doctor who spilled her most private medical details to a British tabloid last week later insisted he had altered some facts to mask her identity. She lives in what the doctor conveyed to *Sunday Express* readers as "straitened" economic and social circumstances. She was also 16 weeks pregnant with twins. So when the woman told Dr. Phillip Bennett of London's Queen Charlotte's Hospital that she could cope with one new baby but not two, he reluctantly agreed to her request for a "selective termination"—to abort one of the twins by injecting an anesthetic agent into its heart or bloodstream. "Killing one healthy twin sounds unethical," said Bennett, who knew the sex of each fetus but did not tell the *Express* how the harrowing choice—which one lives, which dies—was reached. But, he said, it was better to follow the mother's wishes and "leave one alive than to lose two babies."

Not good enough, according to anti-abortion groups and their supporters. Bennett's professional indiscretion offered up a new twist on an old debate, and the particulars of the anonymous woman's case were soon being recounted and analyzed on national television, in newspaper columns and over pints of beer in pubs across the kingdom. "The whole prospect for her and both of her babies is horrifying," pronounced Phyllis Bowman, director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, speaking on BBC radio about a woman of whom she knew nothing more than what was contained in a few paragraphs of a Sunday tabloid. "So far as we are concerned, one baby is being killed. It will be left in the womb, its brother or sister growing beside it." Led to believe by the tone of the *Express* article that the abortion had not yet occurred, various donors offered the woman financial aid totalling over $100,000 and some babysitting help if she agreed to carry the fetus to term. And within two days of Bennett's revelations, the anti-abortion lobby sought—and won—a court injunction to stop the operation.

Too late, as it turned out. A chastened Bennett, tracked down outside his London home, told reporters that his patient had, in fact, undergone the abortion a month before. Bennett then retreated from view, awaiting the seemingly inevitable investigation by the hospital and the doctor's professional council into why he would propel such a private matter into the public sphere. His patient, said a short statement issued by Queen Charlotte's, "is adamant that she does not want any more details put out." The offers of financial help disappeared. The court case was dropped. "The subject matter," ruled high court Judge Sir Michael Turner, "has evaporated."

Only in the narrowest sense. This may have been just one of the roughly 165,000 abortions that will be carried out in Britain this year, but the "instinctive horror" of its uncommon circumstances, as the British Medical Association's head of ethics, Dr. Vivienne Nathanson, put it, invigorated the ever-bitter slanging between the abortion debate's two poles of opinion. The quickly mobilized defences of pro-choice activists denounced the pledges of financial aid as a stunt. "This case is part of the anti-abortionists' campaign to fight to abolish abortion," alleged Dr. Wendy Savage, a prominent gynecologist and pro-choice advocate. "The money that was being offered is like auctioning an unborn child." Anti-abortionists were unmoved. "Anything that calls attention to the plight of unborn children helps us," said Brendan Gerard of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. He said that the case exposed the British abortion law—revised just six years ago to allow terminations up until 24 weeks of pregnancy, if two doctors attest that either the mother, unborn child or other siblings face a health risk because of the birth—to be "nothing more than abortion on demand."

But in a morality struggle where philosophical arguments have been aired to the point of predictability, both sides readily latch on to any new development, however exceptional, to press their case. Four years ago, it was pro-choice defenders who used the instance of a 14-year-old rape victim in their fight to relax the Republic of Ireland's constitutional ban on offering medical advice on obtaining abortions. "In that case, extreme circumstances were used as a platform to push for abortion on demand," countercharged anti-abortion spokesman Gerard. Just two weeks ago, Britain's anti-abortion lobby led a fight against the thawing and destruction of up to 3,300 frozen embryos—artificially fertilized eggs that were left unclaimed by their parents after a five-year time limit expired. Over the protests, the microscopic embryos were legally destroyed.

Yet despite the headlines and the hand-wringing, most medical ethicists shared the opinion that the new cases have not altered the moral core of the debate one bit. "The gut response to the arbitrary killing of one person over another—as the anti-abortionists see this latest case—means that their repugnance is being expressed in a new context," says Raaman Gillon, editor of Britain's *Journal of Medical Ethics*. "But the basic moral issue remains the same: anything you can say about the termination of the twin, you can say about any abortion."

In fact, while selective termination remains rare, it is no longer an extraordinary procedure. British doctors performed 73 selective abortions in 1994, and the growing number, say experts, is largely due to the increase in pregnancies by in vitro fertilization. When fertility treatment produces several embryos in women for whom a multiple birth might pose health risks, doctors can now abort all but one fetus. The procedure is normally carried out around eight weeks into the pregnancy. Using ultrasound scanners to locate the unwanted fetus, which at that stage is only about an inch long, doctors are able to inject a drug to slow and then stop, its heart.



Frozen human embryos at a British hospital: headlines and hand-wringing

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK KENDE/EXPRESS-ARCH VE PHOTOS

A British doctor sparks a public furor over the ethics of 'selective termination'

In last week's sensationalized case, many anti-abortion activists used graphic and ghoulish imagery to describe what follows, suggesting that the traumatized, surviving twin would share space in the womb with a shrivelled, mummified sibling. Nonsense, said a London gynecologist and obstetrician who performs selective terminations but requested anonymity to avoid becoming embroiled in the furor. "The notion that some kind of creature will emerge is a holdover view from the 1960s, when a twin who might die spontaneously in the womb, late in the pregnancy, could emerge looking like a mummified small baby with the placenta wrapped around it," he said. "In this case, even at 16 weeks, the aborted fetus would become nothing more than a scar on the placenta. Only a trained eye would even be able to tell that another fetus had been conceived. A father watching the birth would never know."

Some pro-choice advocates remained unperturbed by the abortion debate's growing concentration on the difficult, delicate cases posed by new technologies. "New medical technology should be welcomed as giving women a greater degree of control over their bodies," said Ann Furedi, author of *Unplanned Pregnancy: Your Choices*, a 1996 book that canvassed British women about why they chose to carry, abort or give their babies up for adoption. "It remains barbaric to try to force a woman to endure a pregnancy against her will, and this particular woman obviously felt that this solution was the best for her. She was able to manage the particulars of her pregnancy where, just a few years ago, other women would not have had the option. The only question any woman should be asking herself after this is whether she can trust her doctor to respect her confidence."

But there was another body of pro-choice defenders who confessed to being vaguely unsettled by the application of the new technology. "I find her reported request a strange one," said Savage about the decision to abort one twin and keep the other. "It is one thing to have terminated a pregnancy when it is a one-off thing. But when you have got twins and one is aborted, you have the live twin in front of you as a constant reminder."

That still murky science surrounding the special relationship between twins may have tempered the enthusiasm of some pro-choice defenders last week. Jen Coldwell has no doubts about the psychological impact of losing a twin. Now 48, her twin brother died when they were 22. Trying to cope with his death led her, years later, into the Lone Twin Network, a support group for 400 or so surviving twins. "Normally, I am for abortion, and I feel very uncomfortable being anywhere near the same side as hardline conservatives," said Coldwell, who spoke movingly about "how desperately sorry I feel for the poor mother, who has been jumped on by the whole country and is probably now hiding under the duvet from a press that is trying to track her down." But, she continued, "I imagine that the surviving twin will feel an enormous, gaping, aching sense of loss for the rest of his or her life. Lone twins feel terrible guilt for being the survivor. You feel it might have been your fault that they died."

There may indeed have been no new moral ammunition wielded in the abortion war that raged through Britain last week. The arguments surrounding one woman's ordeal may have been, as ethicist Gillon described, "no different from any other abortion, except that it gave the issue another run in the media." But he also noted that people "should not underestimate the importance of gut instinct when it comes to flagging moral issues that matter to them. Our nature is to say, 'This unsettles me, so maybe I should look at this again.'" It would not be surprising if, after facing the circumstances of this particularly difficult abortion and the way it was sensationalized, more people find themselves abandoning the camps of the convinced—and crowding onto the unsatisfactory uncertainty of the middle ground.

BRUCE WALLACE *in London*

Tories at the crossroads

From the wide white veranda of his rented cottage on the northern shore of Lake Massawippi in Quebec's Eastern Townships, Jean Charest is able to look down on the parade of cars that routinely slow as they pass. For the four years that he has vacationed there, the leader of the vanquished Progressive Conservative party has been a focus of curiosity in North Hatley, a largely anglophone summer playground of the rich and the notorious for more than a century. Typically, Charest, his wife and three small children are caught in the everyday pastimes of Canadians on vacation: lemonade and a good book on the porch, badminton on the lawn. But last week, tourists had reason to gawk: it appeared that a red-faced Charest, his arms flailing, was about to throttle a visitor. In fact, the mock attack was to demonstrate how the leader says he feels when fellow Tories suggest ways to rebuild his once-mighty party. "People come up to me and say, 'Ah, Jean, we have to get rid of the old gang. Throw them all out,' " sputtered Charest in feigned incredulity. "The old gang? What's left? Wake up! We were defeated! I'll take *anything*."

> "Wake up! We were defeated! I'll take *anything*."

As black as it may be, such good humor is remarkable when set against the Tory party's devastating recent past—and its far from certain political future. A 12-year veteran of Tory ups and downs, Charest, 38, may joke about the eligibility requirements of candidates for a federal election he expects next spring. But many of the 1,200 Tory delegates who begin a three-day policy convention in Winnipeg on Aug. 22 are not as sanguine. Locked in a battle with the right-wing Reform party for the conservative vote, the party faces a familiar Tory dilemma: an internal revolt over policy resolutions that are too extreme for moderates, such as Charest, and too soft for the party's hardline faction, in particular the powerful youth wing that holds nearly one-third of the convention vote. Hopelessly behind the Liberal government's 57-per-cent rating in popular opinion polls, but tied with Reform at 12 per cent, in Winnipeg the Tories must also make a pivotal decision: whether or not to back Charest's personal quest for an even greater recognition of Quebec—and sacrifice crucial votes in Western Canada. Last week, Charest drew his own line in the sand. "I am not at the point where I'm looking at every issue from the angle of the number of seats," he told *Maclean's*. "I'm trying to keep it to the basic issues that I think the country has to address."

Despite the potential messiness of a showdown over party values, the Tories are still a force that neither the incumbent Liberals nor Reform can ignore. Since the October, 1993, federal election that pummelled a two-term majority government into a pitiful two-seat rump, the demoralized party faithful have drifted between disbelief and terror that the party's better days are indeed over. "We made our mistake and we cut our communication line with the country," says national campaign co-chairman Senator Pierre Claude Nolin. "But that doesn't mean we fell apart." An 18-month fund-raising drive added $5.6 million to party coffers, more than half from corporate donations, and reduced the party debt to $1.5 million. The Tories shelved plans to build a new national headquarters in Ottawa ("I am the office," Charest says), but maintained the framework of a once-formidable party infrastructure that, despite their poor showing in terms of seats, captured the votes of two million Canadians in 1993, 16 per cent of the electorate—only four percentage points below Reform, which ended up with 52 seats in the House of Commons. "As it turns out, the critical path we plotted last year to restructure the party and set out our policy isn't bad for us," said Senator Norman Atkins, a longtime backroom strategist. "Besides, I don't think many people would have listened to us up to now."

In fact, the Tories may soon attract more attention than they want. Disgruntled with the deliberate ambiguities of the 144-page policy document that last month articulated the party's so-called majority views, the Tory youth wing—with an estimated 15,000 members from 22 campus clubs—have added 38 amendments to the policy agenda to push their fellow party members towards tougher fiscal and social policies. Not content with a proposal to repeal the controversial Liberal gun registration law, young Tories demanded a return to capital punishment as "a sentencing option" and the "immediate" deportation of refugees and immigrants who break the law. Believing that Ottawa "has a spending problem, not a revenue problem," the wing wants the Tories to promise to slash both personal and corporate taxes by 20 per cent and end all business subsidies.

The young Tories clamor for an equally tough approach to health and social issues. The youth document demands that provinces be allowed "to experiment" with privately managed health-care systems. It argues as well that Ottawa should base social programs on "the concept of deserving need" rather than "the fact of need," as the majority policy paper states. "People are looking for a clear direction from the Tory party and the majority report doesn't give it," youth president Tasha Kheiriddin, a 24-year-old Montreal lawyer, told *Maclean's*. "We don't want a fight—but we want to get re-elected, plain and simple." Senior party officials do not expect that the more radical policies will be adopted. Still, a public airing of an ideological split would place Charest in an awkward position.

In fact, Charest is likely to tolerate minor political trade-offs in return for support of his national unity package—envisioned as a key campaign centrepiece, but one that may prove to be the party's biggest gamble. Charest's package would extend the recognition of Quebec's distinct society to institutions as well as the province's language and culture. Charest said he is so committed to the issue that he wrote much of the policy committee's chapter, "Our Canadian Identity," himself. "There is going to be another referendum. No amount of short-term political manipulation is going to allow us to escape that moment of truth," Charest says. "It would be a grave mistake to let the aggravation of Canadians mislead us. Nor should we mistake their sense of fatigue as a lack of appreciation about the country."

Senior Tories privately concede that a distinct society clause may limit Tory electoral chances to Atlantic Canada and Ontario—and perhaps to a mere 12 seats, the minimum number needed for official party status in the Commons. Certainly, they expect the worst for western-based Tories. "Distinct society is not going to happen," declared University of Calgary political scientist Barry Cooper, who adds that a Tory comeback without the West is impossible—and that won't happen until the party replaces its leader with a non-Quebecer.

That is a remote scenario—at least before the next election. With his personal popularity and easygoing charm, Charest has often been the Tory's most visible asset. But the party does not want to settle for just anyone. They desperately need a winning leader—and popular policies.

E. KAYE FULTON *in Ottawa*



Charest: facing a choice between moderation or a sharp turn to the right

MARK PEDER

A century after the great rush, the Yukon is still a land of dreams

BY BRIAN BERGMAN



Yukon tourists panning for gold, reliving the Klondike magic

Golden days on the last frontier

Madeleine Gould can often be seen on the streets of Dawson sporting a T-shirt that reads, "The Yukon: where men are men and women are pioneers." The T-shirt is an artifact from Gould's nine-year legal battle to join the all-male Yukon Order of Pioneers, a 102-year-old organization that, among other things, records and collects Yukon history. In March, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled 7 to 2 against the 74-year-old great-grandmother, declaring that since it is a private group that does not provide direct services to the public, the Yukon Order of Pioneers is allowed to discriminate in its membership. Gould has taken the ruling—to which the high court's two female justices dissented—in stride. "When I heard that there were seven men and two women on there, I knew what the score was going to be," she says with typical forthrightness. "I wasn't the least bit surprised."

Feisty. Self-reliant. Stubbornly independent. People who know Madeleine Gould—who moved to Dawson from Toronto in 1946 to be with her husband, John, a Yukon-born gold miner—say she fits all those descriptions. And in this way, she embodies the spirit of the Yukon itself, which this week officially marks the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold on Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River. That event, near the present site of Dawson, on Aug. 16, 1896, set off what is often described as the greatest gold rush in human history. More than 100,000 people joined the stampede, most of them American men in their 20s, eager to strike it rich at a time when the continent was mired in a deep economic depression. But the gold seekers were drawn to the Yukon by more than the promise of untold wealth. In a world that was becoming increasingly industrialized and urbanized, the Yukon stood out as one of the last frontiers, a place where individuals could still make their mark. To a remarkable degree, that has not changed. 100 years later, the Yukon continues to serve as a land of fresh starts, where people are free to reinvent themselves.

This week, Yukoners, with the help of some visiting dignitaries, are celebrating the spirit of the territory, both past and present. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will travel to Dawson, a picturesque community of 2,000 near the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers, which doubles in population every summer as seasonal workers move in to help handle the more than 60,000 tourists who visit each year to recapture a bit of gold rush magic. Chrétien is scheduled to preside over the reopening of the original Yukon commissioner's residence, built in 1912 and recently the subject of a $1.2-million restoration effort by the department of Canadian Heritage.

Yukon-born journalist and popular historian Pierre Berton, whose writings have done as much as anyone's to keep the legend of the Klondike alive, will also be in Dawson to oversee the reopening of the one-storey wooden home that his father, Frank—who first came to the Yukon in search of gold in 1898—bought in 1921 for $700 and that Berton recently reacquired at a price of $50,000 ("I think they saw me coming," he says, with a laugh). The house has been restored for a Yukon Arts Council writer-in-residence program, with Toronto novelist Russell Smith slated to become its first occupant this fall. At age 76, Berton, author of the landmark 1958 book *Klondike* and several other volumes on the gold rush, is still mining his birthplace for new material. He is currently at work on a book about young stampeders who went on to famous careers—people such as George Lewis (Tex) Rickard, a former Texas marshal who later became the manager of New York's Madison Square Garden and the greatest fight promoter of his day, and Alexander Pantages, a penniless Greek immigrant who went on to found a $15-million international theatre chain.

For such people, says Berton, the gold rush was a formative experience, like going to war. "A lot of them went for adventure, for escape," Berton told *Maclean's*, "anything to break the monotony of the so-called Gay '90s that were anything but gay. They took what little they had and moved north. And I think they found their true character there."

The pursuit of gold, a popular obsession across the continent in the 19th century, eventually brought would-be prospectors to the Yukon River valley, where some 250 eked out a living by the mid-1880s. But it wasn't until the summer of 1896 that George Carmack, a veteran prospector from California, and two Yukon Indian companions, Skookum Jim and Tagish Charlie, hit the mother lode. Panning up and down Rabbit Creek on August 16, they found enticing traces of gold. Then, in a place where the bedrock lay exposed, they uncovered a nugget the size of a dime. Turning over loose pieces of rock, the men found more gold lying in the cracks, "thick between the flaky slabs, like cheese sandwiches," as Carmack, who renamed the site Bonanza Creek, later related.



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

Berton: keeping legends alive

After staking their claim the next day, the three men headed down the Yukon River and began to spread the good news. Soon, prospectors from all over Alaska and the Yukon converged on the area. On August 31, an even bigger find was made on Eldorado Creek, a tributary of the Bonanza that was only five miles long. The claims staked there, each one no more than 152 m in width, eventually produced more than $30 million worth of gold—an amount that would be worth more than $500 million today.

The larger world did not hear of the excitement in the Yukon until the steamship *Excelsior* pulled into San Francisco harbor on July 14, 1897, bearing more than $500,000 in Klondike gold. The news went over the wires, and by the time a second steamship from the Yukon docked at Seattle three days later, a crowd of 5,000 had gathered to greet the 68 miners who ambled down the gangplank carrying about a million dollars worth of gold in battered suitcases and rope-tied bags.

Of the 100,000 who set off for the gold rush, only about a third managed to reach their destination. There were several possible routes, some more treacherous than others. The most common one was to go by ship to the Alaskan settlements of Dyea or Skagway, then by foot over the White or Chilkoot passes to the headwaters of the Yukon River. The Chilkoot hike, though only a distance of 32 km, involved a climb of 1,065 m, some of it nearly at a 40-degree angle. In the spring of 1898, an avalanche killed more than 60 people on this trail. The White Pass, though not as steep, was 40 km longer and included the infamous Dead Horse Gulch, where stampeders drove their overloaded pack animals until they were either killed in falls, dropped dead of exhaustion or starved.

Most of the gold seekers waited out the winter of 1897-1898 at the headwaters of the Yukon River, then began the arduous 800 km boat trip to Dawson, a former Indian fishing camp that blossomed overnight into a bustling community of 30,000—the biggest Canadian city west of Winnipeg. By the summer of 1898, Dawson boasted two banks, two newspapers and five churches. It also had 20 saloons, a dazzling array of dance halls and gambling houses and a flourishing prostitution trade.

Ironically, most stampeders reached the Yukon only to find that all the good claims had long ago been staked by locals. Still, many felt a keen satisfaction simply in completing the trek. Some settled in the area, and a lucky few even found their fortunes there. Many others, though, fled in favor of new gold finds in Alaska, and as quickly as it had begun, the Yukon gold rush was over. It was left to the likes of British-born Robert Service, who did not arrive in Dawson until many years after the rush, to immortalize the era in ballads like "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Thanks to him, generations of schoolchildren learned about "strange things done in the midnight sun by the men who moil for gold."

The 100 years following the discovery of gold have not always been kind to the Yukon, which achieved territorial status in 1898. Its fortunes ebbed and flowed with the price of gold and with extraordinary events such as the construction of the Alaska Highway and the Canol oil pipeline during the Second World War. Today, the territory's population stands at 33,000—less than during the gold rush—and barren ground caribou outnumber people by a 6-1 margin. The Yukon remains heavily dependent on its resource sector as well as the 300,000 tourists who flock there each year, drawn by the spectacular mountain wilderness.

> 'They went for escape, taking what little they had and moving north'
>
> *Berton: keeping legends alive*

Currently though, the Yukon is experiencing an economic resurgence. Two new gold mines are set to open this fall, creating about 160 new jobs. Once in operation, they will double the territory's annual gold production to 250,000 ounces—still a far cry from the one million ounces that were extracted in 1900.

People rarely come to the Yukon to strike it rich anymore. But they continue to arrive in search of a new way of life. Among them is Amanda Leslie, a 26-year-old Victoria native who moved to Whitehorse in 1993 after spending three years dancing with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Leslie is now the lead singer with the

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CANADA

vaudeville show Frantic Follies, which entertains about 40,000 tourists each summer. In the off-season, she sings with a country rock band, Wynona Sue and the Turnpikes. "Singers and dancers are a dime a dozen down south," says Leslie of her decision to head north. "As I got older, I realized that I was not looking for fame and fortune, but for steady work."

Such lifestyle choices are common among newcomers to the territory, says Yukon MP and former national NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin. "I have friends who have PhDs, one's a carpenter, the other works in construction," she says. "They really have a scaled-down, minimalist lifestyle. That's the kind of freedom that I see here." McLaughlin made her own leap of faith in 1979, a time when she was working in Toronto as an executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Divorced and the mother of two grown children, she sold most of her possessions and drove the 5,500 km to Whitehorse in a maroon half-ton pickup truck.

After working as a social policy consultant for the territorial government, she drifted into politics, scoring an upset victory in a 1987 federal byelection. Two years later, she became the first woman to lead a federal party in Canada. Like many others, McLaughlin, now 59, came to the Yukon seeking a bit of adventure, but anticipating a short stay. Seventeen years later, she says, "I feel a real spiritual affinity with the place." She also vows that the Yukon "will continue to be my home until they carry me out."

Not all Yukoners, of course, are from somewhere else. At age 77, John Gould, husband of the irrepressible Madeleine, still occasionally works the same claim area on Hunker Creek, 27 km southeast of Dawson, that his father, Robert, staked in 1903. And despite fickle gold prices and the often backbreaking work, Gould looks back on his life without a trace of regret. "When I was working with Dad," he recalls, "and anything seemed to be going wrong, Dad would say, 'to heck with it, let's go fishing.' And when we came back, things seemed to fall into place. It's out in the open air and it's healthy. It's just a great way of life."



A steamer arrives in Dawson in 1898: an obsessive search for gold

For those with the deepest roots in the Yukon—the people of the First Nations—this week's centenary celebrations mark a different kind of turning point. The influx of non-natives into the territory that began with the gold rush changed their lives profoundly. New diseases such as tuberculosis and smallpox as well as the widespread use of alcohol all took a deadly toll. Residential schools ripped children from their homes and robbed them of their language. But for all of that, Judy Gingell, who last year became the first native person to be appointed commissioner of the Yukon, takes a sanguine view of the anniversary. She notes that the First Nations, which signed a major land claim deal with Ottawa in 1993, are finally becoming equal partners in the territory. "I look at these celebrations as a chance to address our hurt and reflect on where we want to go from here," she says. "It's an opportunity to get on with our lives." If such a generous spirit prevails, the truly golden days for Canada's final frontier may still lie ahead.

The Yukon continues to lure people looking for a new kind of lifestyle

with CAROLINE MURRAY in Whitehorse



ANDREW VAUGHAN/CANAPRESS

Callbeck with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, behind in the polls

CANADA

An Island stunner

Premier Catherine Callbeck calls it quits

It comes too late to really matter. But Catherine Callbeck, the spotlight-shy premier of Prince Edward Island, finally knows the secret to winning an audience's attention: *keep 'em guessing*. Last May, Callbeck stood before a crowd of expectant Liberal supporters at a local high school. The campaign signs had been printed, the telephones at Liberal headquarters connected—all that remained was for her to confirm that Islanders would go to the polls 27 days later. So jaws dropped when she told the crowd she had decided *not* to call a provincial election. Last week, the first woman to be elected premier in Canada stunned them again. She had lost the confidence of the public, the 57-year-old Callbeck told a hastily called Charlottetown news conference. "I believe," she went on, "the responsible choice is to step down, making way for a successor who better reflects the current wishes of the people."

There is no way to separate the two events. Callbeck, as she maintained at the time, may have resisted calling an election in May because of widespread public opposition to a possible campaign held 3½ years into her government's five-year mandate. Or it may have been the result of a public opinion poll released the day before the expected election call. The poll showed that 42 per cent of Islanders intended to vote for the Liberals—down 16 percentage points from just three months earlier—compared with 47 per cent for the Conservatives (the Liberals currently hold 31 of the province's 32 seats, the other belonging to the Tories). Whatever her reasons, Callbeck's apparent indecisiveness—which one provincial columnist labeled "the biggest dose of cold feet in Island political history"—served as a flash point for growing discontent over her leadership.

Was Callbeck pushed, as everyone from political opponents to women's groups claimed? "This is the premier's decision," party president Brendan Curley maintained last week. (Callbeck declined to be interviewed.) But her departure could not have come at a worse time for the Liberals. Callbeck's successor will now be under intense pressure to call an election before construction of the fixed-link land bridge connecting the Island to New Brunswick is completed some time next year, wiping out hundreds of construction jobs and further dampening the province's tiny, farm-dependent economy. That will give the new premier little time to turn around the momentum that has been building for the Tories since Patrick Binns, a 47-year-old bean farmer and former provincial cabinet minister, became party leader in May.

And if Callbeck's successor harbors any dreams of grandeur, he or she will quickly learn an inescapable fact about governing 132,000 people in Canada's smallest province. "Unless an Island premier is like Joe Ghiz and can do it by dint of character," explained Agar Adamson, a political science professor at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., "they don't stand much of a chance of playing a strong role in a national sense."

Following the flamboyant Ghiz, who was premier from 1986 through 1993, and who is now a Prince Edward Island Supreme Court judge, was Callbeck's misfortune. Last week's political obituaries pointed out that she presided over an economic recovery on the Island, helped turn the fixed link into reality and made the requisite tough fiscal moves. When it came to defending the Island's interests, said Nova Scotia Premier John Savage, 'she never left you in any doubt that Prince Edward Island was an island and that she was in charge of it."

Style, more than substance, was always her problem. Ghiz, who now suffers from cancer, displayed a quick-witted charm, finesse and eloquence that pushed Prince Edward Island into the spotlight. By comparison, Callbeck, a tall, earnest former MP and provincial cabinet minister who once ran her family's small chain of retail stores, is a plodder—a wooden public speaker who seemed to disappear from the public eye at home for long periods of time and received nowhere near the attention that strong Atlantic premiers like New Brunswick's Frank McKenna and Newfoundland's Clyde Wells have commanded nationally.

Until a few months back, those qualities seemed enough. But since the Tories elected their new leader, signs of panic began to emerge in the Liberal ranks, nowhere more obvious than when several disgruntled Grits who lost riding nominations—including Ghiz's wife, Rose Ellen—openly accused the premier's office of rigging the nomination process to run a handpicked slate of candidates.

The scotched election call deepened the party's disarray. And as the weeks went on, her resolve seemed to suffer. She promised to weather the criticism and lead her party into the next election. Then came last week's shocker announcement. In the end, Callbeck broke important ground for women in Canadian politics. Otherwise, she might already be forgotten.

JOHN DeMONT

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Anthony Wilson-Smith



Backstage Ottawa

America's example

In an era in which scientists seem to have discovered evidence of some form of life on Mars, political conservatives everywhere can only hope the same may soon be said of the Republican Party. Not even their most ardent opponents in the United States or elsewhere should relish the sight of one of the two most important political parties in the most important country in the world preparing for an election by making promises that few people want (an outright ban on abortion) or that it cannot possibly keep (a balanced budget *and* a 15-per-cent tax cut). One possible Republican slogan could be "You don't have to agree with us or believe us to vote for us."

None of that would matter to Canadians—except for the fact that political ideas and strategies born in the United States inevitably migrate here, in slightly mutated form, after a short delay. Today the most obvious Canadian admirer of the American way of governing is the Reform party, which owes much of its platform to traditional Republican Party beliefs. That includes such notions as radical downsizing of government, sharp reduction of social programs, support of more free votes and voter recall of politicians.

> The trick is to learn what to borrow from U.S. politics—and especially what to reject

The Liberals, on the other hand, are much more nonpartisan on this issue: they'll steal ideas from anyone. As a result, the U.S. presidential race, which begins in earnest with the Republican convention this week, and the Democratic convention later this month, will set the tone for the Canadian election campaign next year. A Republican upset win would tempt everyone to run on platforms built around tax cuts and bashing Big Government. Already, some Liberals, eyeing the electoral success that Ontario's Mike Harris enjoyed after running on precisely those issues, are talking about doing the same. On a strategic level, their strongest opposition from within the party comes from those Liberals who believe that the opposition party with the greatest potential to grow in the next election is amazingly enough, the New Democratic Party. The logic behind that belief is that in 1993, the Liberals picked up the votes of many traditional NDP supporters who deserted the party because they were so desperate to see the Tories defeated. Now that the Liberals have shown themselves as Tory wannabes, the thinking is that those same voters will move back to the NDP—unless the Liberals give them enough new promises to stay.

Two events next week will also provide important indicators of where the Liberals are likely to head. The first is a meeting of premiers in Alberta, where provincial leaders are likely to discuss the idea of a joint federal-provincial infrastructure program. If they agree on such a plan that will put the onus on the federal Liberals to respond—and demonstrate whether they feel that Canadians are for or against the idea of big government programs. The second event is the meeting of federal Progressive Conservatives in Winnipeg. The question for strategists from all parties, as the Tories plan their platform for the next election, is whether the Conservatives will veer right to try to win back votes from Reform—or fight the Liberals for the middle.

On the list of Things that Make America Grate, election campaigns, with their traditional nastiness and pettiness, always rank high. The trick for Canadian politicians is to learn what to borrow from their American counterparts—and, just as important, what to reject. Reform's Preston Manning, when he visited Washington last year, carefully distanced himself from the more radical elements of the Republican Party. As for Jean Chrétien, the presidential candidate he resembles most is Bob Dole: both are pragmatists and consummate deal-makers with small-town roots and values, and long records as legislators. The difference is that Dole, after a lifetime in elected politics, now acts ashamed of that background. Chrétien, on the other hand, is a successful ranty, populist politician who takes pride in his profession. Based on their respective levels of popularity, perhaps it's Dole, not Chrétien, who should look to his neighbor for a few new ideas.

Canada NOTES

ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard appointed a panel of experts to review the way that provincial and private dams were managed during last month's massive floods in the Saguenay region. Bouchard said that the flooding caused $600 million in damage, including revenue lost by local businesses. He added that Ottawa will pay $300 million and Quebec $100 million, while insurance companies should pay the rest. Canadians have also donated more than $10 million.

AIRBUS LETTER OK

Federal government lawyers filed court documents that claim Swiss law obliged Canadian authorities to identify former prime minister Brian Mulroney in a letter asking the Swiss to freeze bank accounts in that country. The controversial letter contained allegations of a kickback scheme related to the $1.8-billion sale of 34 Airbus jets to Air Canada in 1988. Mulroney says the letter libeled him and is suing Ottawa for $50 million.

RAIN FOREST PROTEST

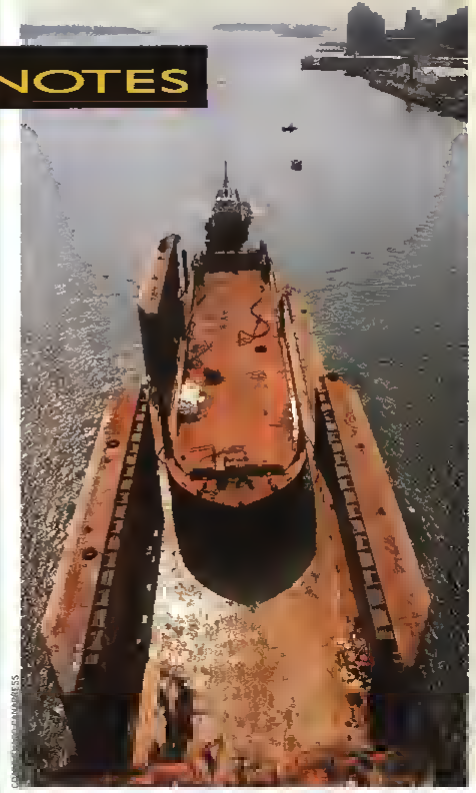
Six Greenpeace activists chained themselves to a MacMillan Bloedel barge in Howe Sound, near Vancouver, to protest logging in B.C. rain forests. At week's end, the protesters vowed to stay indefinitely. "Fifty per cent of our rain forest is already gone," said Karen Mahon, who was chained to an onboard crane. The barge contains spruce, cedar, fir and hemlock logs, some as old as 600 years.

PLEADING INNOCENCE

Francis Carl Roy, who was arrested on July 31 and charged with the 1986 first-degree murder of 11-year-old Alison Parrott of Toronto, says he will plead not guilty. "I would have to have been in two cities at the same time across Canada," Roy, 38, said in a telephone interview from his cell.

CHEER UP, MONTREAL

Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque unveiled a $7-million media campaign intended to counter whatever "morosity" the mayor said Montrealers might be feeling due to last fall's divisive Quebec sovereignty referendum. The three-month advertising blitz, paid for by the city, the federal government and local business, will portray Montreal as an exciting place to live by featuring local landmarks like the Olympic Stadium.



BACK IN DOCK:

The oil barge Irving Whale arrived at Halifax Shipyards, 26 years after she sank in a storm 60 km northeast of Prince Edward Island. Among the onlookers was a small group of environmental protesters who demanded that the owners of the barge, the New Brunswick-based Irving group of companies, foot the estimated $35-million bill for lifting it off the ocean floor. Irving says that the independent Ship-Source Oil Pollution Fund, created by levies from oil shippers, should pay. In the coming weeks, workers will remove about 3,000 tons of heavy fuel oil and 7.2 tons of PCBs from the hulk of the barge.

The Irving Whale arriving in Halifax harbor: cleaning up PCBs and fuel oil

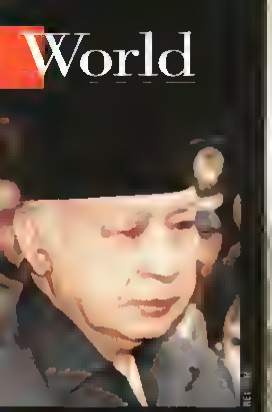
Justice Krever returns the fire

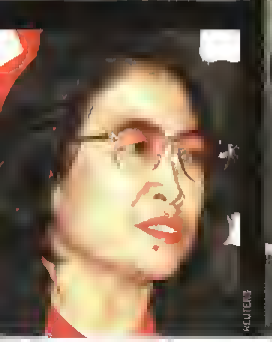
Ontario Justice Horace Krever broke his long silence about the legal challenge that is attempting to prevent him from assigning blame in his final report on the so-called tainted blood scandal. An army of litigants, including the Red Cross, the federal government and four pharmaceutical companies lost a bid in Federal Court in June to try to stop Krever from naming names in the report, which was originally due next month. They are now appealing. But in a rare show of anger, Krever told a crowded hearing room that he will not be deterred. "Many affected persons who had a reasonable hope that they'd see the report of this inquiry have died," he said. "Others are dying but have a chance of seeing the report if delay is avoided. To disregard their interest is contrary to my sense of decency."

Krever acknowledged he will probably miss his Sept. 30 deadline. He intends to hold more public hearings next month as he wraps up the federal inquiry into how Canada's blood supply system failed the 13,200 Canadians who were infected with the AIDS virus or hepatitis in the 1980s. Meanwhile, some tainted blood victims continued to express bitterness. Said Lynn Kampf, who was infected with the AIDS virus: "I'm concerned all this could mean we'll never really know the true story."

Separatist anger over a lieutenant-governor

Parti Québécois politicians reacted critically to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's appointment of Quebec federalist Jean-Louis Roux as the province's lieutenant-governor. Last year, Roux, 73, former director general of the National Theatre School of Canada, offended separatists by saying that "nationalism is a movement that diminishes the spirit and can lead to intolerance." "It's not the choice of Quebec," declared Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jacques Brassard. Also among last week's appointments: former Liberal agriculture minister Eugene Whelan, 72, and prominent Quebec Liberal Leonce Mercier, 70, to the Senate.







Rioting in Jakarta; Suharto (left); Megawati (below): anger over corruption

Islands of unrest

An old rival's democratic daughter challenges a despot

The matronly woman strolling in the gardens outside her spacious Jakarta home seems an unlikely freedom fighter. But for millions of Indonesians, Megawati Sukarnoputri, 49, is carrying on the struggle started by her legendary father, Sukarno, the mercurial, left-leaning founder of modern Indonesia. Her calls for more freedom have pitted her against President Suharto, the enigmatic general who deposed her father in 1966 and has since ruled the Southeast Asian country like a feudal emperor. In late July, smoke from buildings torched by Megawati's backers darkened the sky over Jakarta. Suharto responded by ordering the army to shoot rioters on sight. Last week, as troops maintained a tight grip on the sprawling city of nine million, Megawati was questioned by police for six hours over her role in the protests. "I want to struggle for the sovereign rights of the people," she told *Maclean's*. "Indonesia should be a country based on the rule of law, not might."

When Indonesia trembles, the region quakes. The world's fourth-most-populous nation has been an archipelago of stability since it emerged from the bloody horrors of an alleged coup attempt in 1965, grimly immortalized in the film and novel *The Year of Living Dangerously*. Under Suharto, Indonesia's economy has rocketed ahead to become a key engine of growth for the region. Nearly $28 billion in foreign investment was approved in the first half of 1996 alone. But at the same time, corruption has ballooned, the middle class is demanding more power and the gulf between rich and poor has widened. To some commentators, Indonesia is increasingly taking on the look of the Philippines in the last years of deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos, although the comparison infuriates Suharto.

His administration is leaving little to chance. In June, the government ousted Megawati as chairman of the Indonesian Democratic Party, a post she had held since 1993. In the wake of the riots, the authorities detained a dissident labor leader and laid the groundwork for more arrests by warning of a Communist threat. The heavy show of force in the streets made it clear that even after 30 years of uncontested rule, Suharto does not intend to liberalize his military-backed government. But as Megawati talked in her garden with supporters who had been hurt in the riots, she insisted that her father's old rival must change. "Democratization, human rights and living standards," said Megawati. "These will be the issues central to the 21st century."

In the looming struggle, Megawati's main political asset will be the reverence that millions of Indonesians still feel for her father. A charismatic politician, Sukarno proclaimed the nation's independence after 400 years of Dutch colonial rule on Aug. 17, 1945. Sukarno ruled for 20 years until the still-mysterious events of 1965, in which leftist officers were blamed for a supposed coup attempt. Suharto, then an obscure lieutenant-general, crushed the revolt, setting off a vengeful bloodletting in which hundreds of thousands of alleged Communists were massacred. The following year, he eased out the aging Sukarno, who died under virtual house arrest in 1970.

But Sukarno's ghost still haunts Suharto (following the tradition of some Javanese, they carry only a single name). Although Sukarno's policy of confrontation with the West helped leave the economy in tatters, the so-called *rakyat kecil*, the little people, still recall the former leader with fondness. At anti-government demonstrations in Jakarta, protesters carried large pictures of both Sukarno and his daughter. Busts and portraits of Sukarno also decorate Megawati's home in the capital. Her husband, Taufiq Kiemas, owns a chain of five gasoline stations and together they have raised three college-aged children. Unlike her father, Megawati is soft-spoken, often gesturing with her glasses to underscore a point. Says Megawati: "My father's spirit is still alive in the people of Indonesia."

While many observers say that, like her father, Megawati is not easily intimidated, she will need all her political resolve to confront Suharto, who with good reason remains popular with many factions in the country. After taking power, Suharto used Indonesia's vast oil and gas revenues to propel Indonesia from near starvation to an annual growth rate of about seven per cent. In recent years, Suharto's so-called "Berkeley mafia" of American-educated technocrats have successfully encouraged manufacturing to reduce the dependence on petroleum.

In the process, however, analysts say Suharto may have sown the seeds of his own undoing. While he has greatly improved the education and health systems, Indonesia still suffers stubbornly high unemployment and an ever more obvious gap between the conspicuously consuming rich (Jakarta boasts a Planet Hollywood franchise) and the legions of poor. Suharto's own family has become immensely wealthy, single-handedly controlling major sectors of the economy. Tensions have also been aggravated by religious and racial differences in the largely Muslim country. A vast share of the country's wealth—up to 75 per cent by some estimates—is held by the mainly Christian and Buddhist Chinese minority, which makes up just four per cent of the population. Says Ali Sadikin, a former Jakarta governor and prominent dissident: "There is economic growth but who enjoys it? The Chinese."

Suharto is expected to accept another five-year term as president in 1998, when he will be 77. That frustrates many Indonesians who believe the stability of the country can only be guaranteed if Suharto finally steps aside. Megawati, an MP since 1987, has become the focal point of the growing clamor for reform. Her popularity as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party, one of only two officially sanctioned minority parties, led the government to fear that she could become too successful in parliamentary elections next year. A strong presence in parliament would allow her to challenge the usual "consensus politics" that leads to Suharto's unopposed re-election by a body composed equally of parliament and military appointees. In June, the authorities openly helped a rebel faction elect a new, more malleable leader to replace Megawati. Her supporters protested by occupying the party headquarters for more than a month. Finally, on July 27, police stormed the office, sparking a riot in the surrounding slums in which four people were killed and 249 arrested.

With troops still guarding the party headquarters, Indonesians are waiting for Megawati to make her next move. Last week, she filed a criminal complaint against Surjadi, the leader of the government-backed faction that ousted her from the party. But analysts are divided over whether she can create a broad enough power base to unseat Suharto. Conservative factions in the country still nervously recall her father's flirtation with Communism and many political analysts believe there is not yet a large enough middle class to carry Megawati to victory. "At some point, people may become disgruntled with not having a greater voice," says Mari Pangestu, an economist with the Center of Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta. "I don't see any kind of People Power happening yet."

Even Megawati, who is committed to nonviolence, seems unsure of just how far she wants to carry the Sukarno banner. "We are not an opposition party," she says. "We remain committed to taking a constructive stance." Suharto, however, may not be happy until Megawati is banished completely from the political stage. Insiders say he holds an ancient Javanese view that the reincarnation of old rivals in the form of their children is bad luck. If so, he will have to contend with Megawati supporters like Indra Gunawan, a 25-year-old bank employee. "I love Mega because she speaks the truth," he says. "I'm prepared to die for her." Suharto may be in for a long struggle.

TOM FENNELL *with Joe Leahy in Jakarta*

HIGH STAKES

Composed of 13,667 islands spread across an area wider than Europe, Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous nation. About 87 per cent of its 194 million people are Muslim. Canada has major stakes in the now-jittery Southeast Asian republic

- **Total direct Canadian investment:** $6 billion
- **Annual trade:** about $1.3 billion, almost evenly balanced

Canadian operations in Indonesia: more than 100 companies and 23 joint ventures. Major pending deals include the sale of $2.2 billion worth of Canadian wheat to Indonesia over five years, an $800-million project in which a subsidiary of Gulf Canada Resources Ltd. will help produce Indonesian natural gas, and a 30-year, $812-million contract for nickel mining and smelting by a subsidiary of Inco Ltd.

- **Canadian aid to Indonesia:** $38 million
- **Indonesians in Canada:** about 6,000



Shades of Helms-Burton

Washington targets Iran and Libya over terror

Too many business and political leaders overseas, America's latest anti-terror measure was infuriating and futile. But in the United States, a nation searching for answers, the timing was critical. Last week, with scuba divers still seeking clues in the wreckage of doomed TWA Flight 800 off Long Island, N.Y., the FBI's investigation of the bloody pipe-bombing at the Atlanta Olympic Games in a slow crawl, and intelligence agents gathering wisps of information on June's deadly terrorist attack on a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, President Bill Clinton was at least doing something Americans could get a handle on. Flanked by past terror victims, the President signed into law a Republican-sponsored bill imposing tough unilateral sanctions on foreign companies doing business with Libya and Iran, nations he assailed as "two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world." Later, in a speech clearly designed for foreign consumption, Clinton flatly declared: "The United States cannot and will not refuse to do what we believe is right. Terrorism is the enemy of our generation and we must prevail."



Recovering TWA cockpit last week: criticism from allies including Canada

Far from gaining international support, however, the new U.S. law provoked widespread condemnation. Predictably, Iran and Libya, who deny they support terrorism, lambasted Clinton for trying to impose American hegemony on the Islamic world and bowing to domestic political pressure in the campaign for the U.S. presidential election in November. But even several of Washington's staunchest allies—already outraged by earlier U.S. legislation targeting foreign companies doing business with Communist Cuba—opposed the move. Canada was among them. "While we share the concerns of the United States and other countries on international terrorism and place a high priority on finding ways to combat it, this is not the way to proceed," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, echoing a sentiment expressed by the 15-nation European Union, Japan, Australia and others. International Trade Minister Art Eggleton denounced another "attempt by the United States to dictate trade policy to its allies" and vowed that "Canada will continue to defend its interests against the extraterritorial application of such legislation."

Under the terms of the so-called D'Amato bill, named for its sponsor, Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, the President can, at his discretion, impose sanctions on foreign enterprises undertaking new investments worth more than about $55 million—$40 million (U.S.)—in oil or gas projects in either Libya or Iran. As punishment, Clinton can bar such foreign firms from doing business with the U.S. government, from exporting products to the United States, from receiving goods that require U.S. export licences or financing, from borrowing more than $10 million (U.S.) from American financial houses, or from dealing in U.S. bonds.

But unlike similar legislation aimed at foreign companies dealing with Cuba—the Helms-Burton Act, which Clinton delayed implementing last month under foreign pressure—the latest law is unlikely to have any major impact on Canadians. No Canadian businesses currently have more than $55 million invested in Libya. The biggest Canadian player in the north African country is PanCanadian Petroleum Ltd. of Calgary, which in May signed a five-year, $17-million deal to conduct oil exploration there. The American law "doesn't affect us," said PanCanadian spokesman Rick Jeffrey. Canadian investment in Iran is virtually nil. Iran-Canada trade last year totalled just over $543 million. But more than $421 million of that was made up of Canadian exports, mostly wheat. Canadian trade with Libya—subject to a limited UN trade embargo since 1991 for failing to extradite two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland—totalled just over $66 million. That was limited almost exclusively to exports of Canadian wheat and milk powder. "They are humanitarian exports, not an aid to terrorism," said foreign affairs spokesman Charles Larabie.

While Canada thus opposes the measure largely on principle, European countries have a lot more at stake. Libya and Iran account for 25 per cent of all the oil imported into the European Union, and several firms in the region have major investments there. France's Total SA oil company, for instance, has an $820-million contract with Iran to develop offshore oilfields. In response, the EU threatened retaliation, even as officials tried to play down Washington's initiative. Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, whose country is Libya's largest trading partner, called the U.S. measures merely "symbolic." Added German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel: "Part of what is going on in America has to be seen as part of the election campaign."

Clinton, although leading Republican rival Bob Dole in opinion polls, sought to appear tough on terrorism. But he did nothing to address the mysteries still haunting the U.S. public. Some officials suspect Iran of backing the Saudi attack, but Washington has yet to provide any direct link between Tehran and the truck bombing. While FBI agents pressed their investigation of security guard Richard Jewell, long the primary suspect in the Atlanta bombing, at week's end they had yet to lay any charges. The agency denied a report it planned to apologize to Jewell. And in the absence of any hard evidence pointing to a bomb in the TWA explosion, investigators refused to rule out the possibility of mechanical failure. Until all the questions are answered, any relief Americans may have felt last week seems likely to prove fleeting.

SCOTT STEELE *with* **LUKE FISHER** *in Ottawa*

World NOTES

FREAK FLOOD IN SPAIN

A sudden torrent of mud and rocks swept through a crowded Spanish campsite, killing up to 100 people and injuring scores of others. The freak flood, triggered by heavy rains, left bodies strewn up to 15 km downstream from the Virgin of the Snows campsite, located in the Pyrenees mountains near the French border. Picking through the wrecks of cars and trailers carried up to a kilometre away, rescuers found a baby alive in the arms of its dead mother but encountered few other survivors.

'TRANSIT DIPLOMACY'

The United States granted a transit visa to Taiwan Vice-president Lien Chan, despite warnings from Beijing that Sino-U.S. relations would suffer. Lien was to stop in New York City this week en route to the Dominican Republic. U.S. officials said he would not be allowed to conduct any public or official activities. China—still angry over a U.S. visa granted to Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to speak at Cornell University in 1995—accused Washington of practising "transit diplomacy" in an attempt to build up Beijing's island rival.

AMERICA OFF-LINE

Public angst over a 19-hour shutdown of the America Online computer service highlighted the growing dependency of businesses and individuals on electronic mail and Internet services. The outage, caused by a glitch in new software, left AOL's six million subscribers in North America unable to connect for nearly a day. It was, said a New York City lawyer and subscriber, "as if the telephones or mails stopped running for a while."

MEXICAN ACQUITTAL

Mexico's long-running assassination mystery took another puzzling turn when a judge freed a man accused for 18 months of being a second killer of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio in 1994. The judge acquitted Othon Cortes Vazquez for lack of evidence, making him the fifth alleged co-conspirator to be freed. One man has already been convicted of the murder, which appeared to be the work of two gunmen. Polls show most Mexicans believe the killing was a high-level conspiracy involving the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. The latest decision took the investigation back to Square 1.



Kemp (left) and Dole receive well-wishers in Dole's home town of Russell, Kan.

DOLE'S QUARTERBACK: **As Republicans converged on San Diego for their nominating convention this week, party presidential candidate Bob Dole moved to energize his moribund campaign by naming onetime football star and longtime Buffalo, N.Y., congressman Jack Kemp, 61, as his vice-presidential running mate. The choice delighted many in the party frustrated by Dole's lag of up to 20 points in opinion polls behind his Democratic rival, President Bill Clinton. They believed Kemp, a former housing secretary who reached out to the poor, would broaden Dole's appeal with minorities and women. Kemp, whose son, Jimmy, is a backup quarterback for the Montreal Alouettes, had supported Dole rival Steve Forbes during the Republican primaries.**

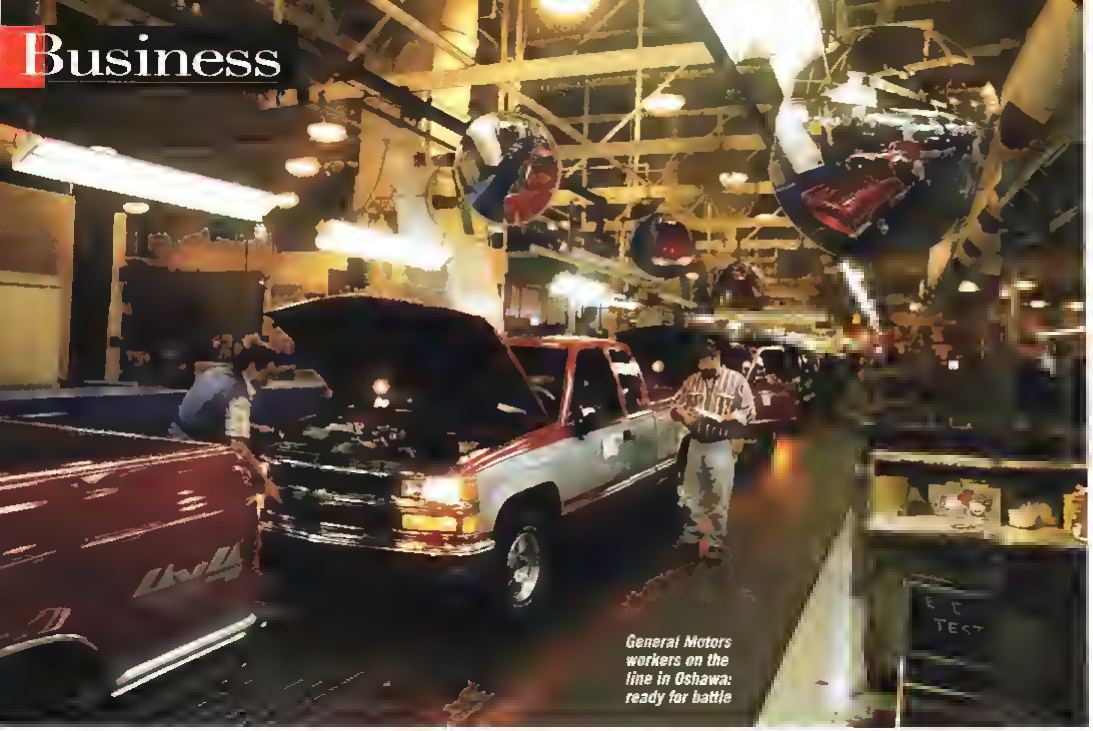
A troubled start for Yeltsin

It should have been a moment of triumph for Boris Yeltsin. But when he was sworn in for his second four-year term as Russian president, the elaborate ceremony in the Kremlin Palace was overshadowed by more questions about his health and a renewed rebel offensive in Chechnya. Trumpets blared and 30 big Kremlin guns saluted the president, but Yeltsin spent only 16 minutes onstage and spoke for just 45 seconds. It was his first public appearance since June 26, and he walked stiffly and spoke slowly. At a banquet later, he delivered a longer speech, but his halting performance at the inauguration renewed concern that his health is still poor after two heart attacks last year. He had been resting at a sanatorium near Moscow for three weeks before the ceremony, and was to start a long vacation immediately after.

As Yeltsin was sworn in, Chechen separatist fighters surrounded about 7,000 Russian servicemen in the republic's capital, Grozny. A Russian military source described the situation as "totally out of control." The Interfax news agency said the rebels controlled the centre of Grozny and all main roads in the city, as well as key sites in the republic's second- and third-largest cities. The rebels made it clear that their offensive was deliberately timed to spoil Yeltsin's inauguration. Despite a pre-election ceasefire, fighting resumed shortly after Yeltsin's July 3 victory.

High tension over Ulster's marches

Northern Ireland's Catholic-dominated Londonderry, Ulster's second-largest city, emerged without major incidents on Saturday after rival religious groups held marches near each other's turf. Bowing to appeals from police and community leaders, both Catholics and Protestants rerouted their parade routes to avoid direct confrontations with their opponents. Rioting after the annual parade by Apprentice Boys—a fervently pro-British Protestant group—in 1969 marked the start of "the Troubles," Northern Ireland's quarter-century of sectarian strife.



General Motors workers on the line in Oshawa: ready for battle

A fight for rights

Autoworkers get ready to take on the Big Three

BY DAVID ESTOK

On this tranquil summer day on the sun-dappled southeastern shore of Ontario's Lake Huron, Buzz Hargrove should be relaxed. But he is not. Tanned but tense, the president of the country's largest private sector labor union has just stepped away from a gruelling strategy session at the Canadian Auto Workers union's lavish glass and cedar retreat at Port Elgin, 215 km northwest of Toronto. Dressed casually in a faded orange T-shirt, khaki shorts, no socks and brown deck shoes, the 52-year-old labor leader speaks proudly of the $35-million facility's role as a training centre. But minutes later, he acknowledges that the complex, like all the others the union owns across the country, may soon be mortgaged to help pay for what many observers predict could be the toughest strike the union has faced in at least a quarter of a century. "For the first time since the formation of the union in the '30s and '40s," Hargrove says, "we are into issues of principle."

The principles on which Hargrove has planted the CAW's flag, however, are virtually certain to enrage his adversaries at the country's Big Three carmakers. The union represents 55,000 workers at car assembly plants in Ontario and Quebec owned by Chrysler Canada Ltd., Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. and General Motors of Canada Ltd., whose contracts expire Sept. 14. Although the two sides have been holding exploratory talks for weeks in downtown Toronto, the real campaign begins on Aug. 28. That is when, following tradition, the CAW will pick one auto company that will become its strike target for the current round of talks. Whatever deal is eventually reached with that company will then be used as a model for contracts with the other two.

But an agreement will not be easily reached. In an unprecedented assault on the corporate power structure, the CAW intends to pursue nothing less than the right to veto key executive decisions. "We are challenging their right to sell a plant, to close a plant or to decide whether they are going to build parts or purchase them," Hargrove told *Maclean's* last week. He added: "This is about the company's right to manage."

An outsider might say that it is an odd time to throw down such a gauntlet. Canada's car and truck industry has been profitable of late. Oshawa, Ont.-based General Motors, the country's largest automaker, with 28,510 employees at plants in Oshawa, St. Catharines, and Windsor, and a production facility in Ste-Thérese, Que., earned $1.4 billion last year, its largest-ever profit in Canada. Ford, based in Oakville, Ont. and employing 14,659 people, had earnings of $10 million and has invested more than $5 billion in new and expanded plants in Oakville, St. Thomas and Windsor, Ont., since 1990. Chrysler, with more than 13,000 workers in Canada earned $83 million last year. The steady car sales that generated those profits, meanwhile, have buoyed the Ontario and Quebec economies and contributed significantly last year to Canada's total gross domestic product.

But strong sales and profits have not necessarily translated into stability on the shop floor. Unprecedented global competition has forced automakers to rethink their traditional operations in a relentless drive to improve productivity while maintaining both profit and market share. Nowhere have the changes been more evident than in the fiercely competitive field of supplying the tens of thousands of parts and components that go into a modern automobile. And more than any other issue, it is the question of who will manufacture those parts, ranging from cam shafts to door trim, that has put the Big Three on a collision course with their unions—on both sides of the border—in 1996.

"Outsourcing"—management's term—or "contracting out"—the more pejorative union phrase for the practice—has been a sore spot among organized labor for years. Looking to improve efficiency, reduce costs and limit their liability, companies have turned increasingly to others to do work they once did themselves. As automakers have followed the trend by buying more and more parts from independent—and often non-union—suppliers, the CAW and its American counterpart, the United Auto Workers, have fought a stubborn rear-guard action to protect their members' jobs. Last spring, members of UAW Local 696 in Dayton, Ohio, launched a bitter 17-day strike to protest General Motors' decision to outsource brake production for 1998 Camaros and Firebirds to a U.S. division of Germany's Robert Bosch GmbH. The strike idled GM's entire North American production and cost the company as much as $50 million a day. It was finally settled on March 30 with both sides claiming victory but without the key outsourcing issue being resolved.

Now, Hargrove is planning to tackle the contentious question in Canada. Claiming what the union describes as "work ownership," the CAW hopes to develop contract language that strictly limits outsourcing. On another front in the same battle, Hargrove says the union will demand that GM reverse a decision announced last April to sell two Ontario parts plants and concentrate on its core business of vehicle assembly. "Under the principle of work ownership," Hargrove explains, "we are saying, 'By God, those are our jobs and if you want to take them away, you have to justify it to the union.'"

The union will be hard to satisfy on the issue. Its core membership is at stake. Observes Dennis DesRosiers, a Toronto-based auto analyst, of the trend to outsourcing: "It is not that jobs are at risk. What's at risk is *union* jobs." Adding to the pressure on the CAW is the growing number of non-union auto assembly plants owned by Japanese automakers such as Toyota, Nissan and Honda in North America. Those factories will produce close to three million vehicles by the end of the year—a number that DesRosiers predicts will continue to grow. "These cars are being produced without even the threat of unionization," DesRosiers says. "The reason is that they treat workers well and have competent management. So you have no fundamental need for a union. That's what this fight is all about."

Officials from all three companies contacted last week declined to discuss specific issues while negotiations are under way. But language to protect management's right to direct an enterprise as it sees fit has been stock phrasing in all collective agreements since the 1940s. The CAW's challenge of that right is unlikely to meet an easy acquiescence from carmakers. For his part, GM Canada vice-president Dean Munger told reporters at a news conference when talks opened: "The concept of 'job ownership' is new, but we need as an organization to be productive, we must be efficient, we must be meeting all the cost and quality targets. And that provides security."

That argument enrages Hargrove, who believes that his members have already shown their willingness to meet Munger's goals—and now deserve their reward. "It is incredible," the union leader protests. "We have the most productive, most cost-effective, high-quality auto industry in the world. And yet we are faced with the corporations on the attack like never before."

And not only the corporations. The change in Ontario's provincial government since the industry negotiated its last collective agreement (without a strike) in 1993 has radically chilled the climate for unions. Conservative Premier Mike Harris has rewritten the Ontario Labour Relations Act and is currently reviewing a number of pieces of legislation that affect working conditions, such as the Employment Standards Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Critics expect the government to lower standards that workers have long relied on. In response, the CAW wants to see many of the legislative protections enshrined for the first time in its next auto industry contract.

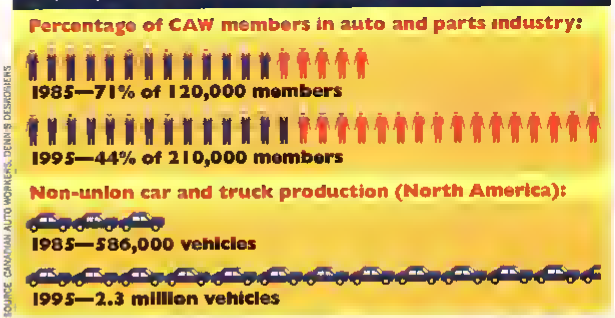
The union's new assertiveness is being bolstered by a repaired relationship with its counterpart—and former parent—in the United States. Dealings between the CAW and UAW became extremely frosty after the international UAW's Canadian wing split off on its own in 1985. But much has changed in 11 years. Not only has the CAW grown dramatically, from about 120,000 members in 1985 to its current base of 210,000 men and women, but it has diversified into rail, fisheries, and the service sectors. The Big Three plants, which once employed the majority of the union's members, now account for only about 25 per cent of the membership. Hargrove flatly rejects any talk of the two unions reuniting but admits he travels to Detroit each week for strategy sessions.

If a strike comes, it will be felt well beyond the car plants of Oshawa, Brampton and Windsor. "A strike would have a serious negative effect on the economy," says analyst DesRosiers, adding, "one in six jobs in Toronto are related to the auto industry."

Undeterred, Hargrove is girding his union for the struggle to come. Determined "not to allow the corporations to defeat us on these key issues by starving us out," he has overseen the amassing of a $50-million strike fund—enough, he says, to last eight weeks on the picket line. And there is more cash to come: the CAW plans to double its war chest, if necessary, by mortgaging properties like the one in Port Elgin and increasing temporarily the dues paid by members outside the auto industry. With his order of battle already forming up, it may be some time before Hargrove gets another chance to relax in his union's Lake Huron retreat. □

THE NEW FACE OF THE CAW

Since it split from the UAW in 1985, membership in the CAW has grown dramatically. The union's gains, however, have been in sectors such as rail, hospitality and services, not in the auto industry.



SOURCE: CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS; DENNIS DESROSIERS



Operating in Vancouver: world-class doctors and hospitals with cut-rate prices

BUSINESS

Profiting from health-care cuts

A growing number of Americans are paying for treatment in Canada

Tipping the scales at 420 lb., Dan Adamson was not happy being obese. After trying other methods to reduce his weight, the 44-year-old lawyer from Pocatello in southern Idaho decided to undergo a stomach-stapling operation. At first, he considered having the procedure done in Utah or California. But before Adamson could act, an advertisement placed in a local newspaper by Alberta's Cardston General Hospital caught his eye. After one call to the hospital's toll-free hotline last spring, Adamson was sold. In August, 1995, surgeons at the Canadian facility 12 km north of the American border reduced the size of Adamson's stomach for a fee of $14,000—at least $9,000 less than the same procedure would have cost in the United States. Now 115 pounds lighter, Adamson is quick to praise Cardston's marketing savvy and medical skills. Thanks to his stapled stomach, he boasts, "I am now a stud."

For years, wealthy Canadians have been heading south to skirt waiting lists for such medical procedures as cardiac surgery, knee replacement and advanced diagnostic imaging. Now, facilities like Cardston are attracting a small but growing number of border-crossings in the other direction. Targeting American patients with promotions that tout Canada's internationally recognized doctors, high-quality medical centres and—most importantly—its far lower prices for most procedures than in the United States, hospital administrators and private entrepreneurs alike hope to tap a market for health services that could be worth hundreds of million dollars per year. "The private sector in various forms has identified enormous gaps in the market," says Pamela Divinsky, a senior consultant for accounting and advisory firm KPMG who is studying the changing structure of the Canadian health-care system. "We all know from Economics 101 that if there's a gap in the market someone is going to try and fill it," she adds.

For Cardston hospital, the girth-challenged marketplace seemed to offer one source of new revenue to ease the sting of shrinking provincial health budgets. In the fall of 1994, the 45-bed facility spent more than $20,000 on a seven-week promotional campaign aimed at overweight residents of Montana and Idaho, offering slimming stomach surgery at a substantial savings. Although the initiative was put on hold in April, 1995, by then it had already attracted more than 700 inquiries. And the 15 people who, like Adamson, actually signed up for surgery, amply recovered the hospital's costs for advertising. With the advantages offered by a low Canadian dollar, cheaper administrative costs and much lower doctors' salaries, Cardston cashed in on a medical procedure in short supply in the United States.

Meanwhile in Toronto, an all-private clinic is energetically courting American customers for a range of medical services. Handsomely furnished with navy-blue carpeting and framed prints of America's Cup yacht races, the seven-month-old King's Health Centre is located within sight of three large teaching hospitals. The centre boasts an affiliation with the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and the ability to attract a roster of more than 100 doctors from some of Canada's most prestigious health facilities. It is not aimed exclusively at U.S. traffic: Canadians may buy reproductive therapy, physiotherapy sessions and other services not covered by provincial medicare benefits, but they are prohibited from paying the private clinic for services—such as cardiac surgery—which *are* covered by medicare. No such limits restrict what American patients can receive however, and for them, the Canadian facility represents a bargain-basement of low-cost medical services. "There is such a disparity in prices and fees between the United States and Canada," says Scott Addison, King's senior vice-president of marketing, "that we have a tremendous opportunity to provide quality-driven services which I don't think the Americans can compete against." Addison expects that, when fully operational early next year, the clinic will attract 3,000 patients a day from Canada and the United States, with Americans providing about 25 per cent of revenues.

It is a formula that could lead to unprecedented integration of Canadian and American health care. To attract patients on the scale that it seeks, King's is negotiating with U.S. insurance companies and health maintenance organizations—which provide health care to subscribers for a fee—to offer medical services to their customers at a fraction of U.S. costs. Arthroscopic knee surgery, for instance, can cost up to $20,000 in the United States. King's, according to its marketing senior vice-president, "will probably be able to do this surgery—all costs included, with transportation and a room at the Hilton—for about a third of that." Meanwhile, King's plans to refer queuing Canadian patients who can afford immediate private American care to prominent U.S. centres like the Mayo Clinic.

The push to attract U.S. patients comes at a time of growing alarm over the state of Canada's health care system. As provincial governments try to rein in health care budgets, the number of hospital beds across Canada has fallen by more than 6,000, to 155,676 since 1993. Meanwhile, administrators in some provinces have slashed operating-room capacity and several provincial governments have imposed caps on doctors' salaries. Amid the prevailing climate of retrenchment, offering medical services for a price to foreign patients holds the strong appeal of providing a potential new source of sorely needed revenue. But the idea has its detractors, who worry that serving Americans for a fee will dilute the free care given to Canadians.

Controversy over the beneficiaries of cross-border health shopping has already stalled one initiative. In April, Edmonton-based Hotel de Health Inc. made a $4.9-million proposal to local health authorities to lease unused space at Leduc Hospital, 12 km south of the Alberta capital, for a decade. The company proposed to fill the public hospital's spare beds with foreign patients. In the wake of negative public comment, Crossroads Regional Health Authority, which is responsible for the area's health care, rejected the company's first offer in June. But the company has not given up its plans. In fact, according to spokesman Robert Talbot, Hotel de Health has already opened negotiations with American health maintenance organizations for a supply of patients. But others see the Hotel de Health's ambitions in a different light. "We think that the proposal is a step towards two-tiered health care," says Dr. Hubert Kammerer, chairman of the Edmonton-based nonprofit organization, Friends of Medicare. "I think that their ultimate plan is to take wealthy Canadian patients that want to jump the queue."

Other plans to market health care to foreign patients have also failed to get off the ground, at least so far. Horizon Pacific International, a Vancouver consulting firm, has conducted numerous analyses for The Vancouver Hospital—the city's largest general hospital—on the potential rewards of marketing the facility's state-of-the-art bone-marrow transplant expertise overseas. But so far, the hospital has not moved to profit from that potential. And in 1993, two major Toronto teaching hospitals—The Hospital for Sick Children and The Toronto Hospital—proposed generating extra revenue by selling brain surgery and cancer treatment to Americans. Then-Ontario Minister of Health Ruth Grier turned the proposals down flat.

One concern is that Americans able to pay for care will receive more attention than Canadians—who are prevented under the Canada Health Act from paying for medical services. "Canadian doctors will end up spending their time looking after American patients," predicts Dr. Michael Rachlis, a Toronto-based health policy analyst and vocal defender of medicare. In the longer term, Rachlis argues, the availability of services for a fee will fuel public pressure to change Canada's existing health system. "It will erode the Canadian system," Rachlis asserts. "When Canadians see Americans paying money to get fast arthroscopic surgery, they will say 'Why can't I have it?'"

Doctors do stand to benefit from any influx of paying patients from points South. One reason for the difference in health care costs between Canada and the United States, notes Dr. Brian Day, a Vancouver surgeon and associate professor of medi-



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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

cine at the University of British Columbia, is that Canadian surgeons receive about one-sixth to one tenth the pay of their American counterparts. Providing services to paying U.S. patients is one way for Canadian physicians to narrow that income gap.

Other physicians are simply looking for more opportunity to practise their profession amid cutbacks in the public health system. Feeling frustrated after Vancouver Hospital cut his operating hours in half three years ago, Day joined 21 other investors and opened the $4.5-million Cambie Surgery Centre in downtown Vancouver. Now, he and his staff of 14 doctors perform surgery on patients from all over the world. But Day, who still performs six hours of surgery a week on Canadians that is paid for under medicare, is upset that he is prevented by law from operating on others who are willing to pay for quicker access to service. "I have 60 patients on crutches right now who have been denied by their government the right to pay $500 and get fixed," says Day. "They've been told that if you want to get fixed you have to go down to Bellingham, Wash., and pay $5,000."

Other critics, though, say that Canada's competitive advantage in cross-border health-care cost comparisons is only temporary. Many U.S. hospitals now operate at less than 70 per cent of capacity, even while health-care experts in that country are predicting that by the year 2000 the United States will face a surplus of more than 120,000 doctors. Together, says Scott Rowand, president of the Association of Canadian Teaching Hospitals, the two factors spell an oversupply of health care that should act to lower prices. "That," says Rowand, "suggests you will find the marginal cost being cut significantly in the American market."

Such skepticism has not deterred Medresource Canada Inc. The Toronto company is assembling a network of doctors and clinics across Canada that will agree to provide services to 4,000 American residents a year. Jonathon Shore, Medresource's director of marketing, is confident that there is a growing American appetite for Canadian medicine. "Health care is really an international enterprise," says Shore. "I see people looking for quality and price, considering Canada as an alternative for care."

The description clearly applies to Dan Adamson. After his five-day stay in Cardston, Adamson declared that "the calibre of medical care in Canada is as good as anywhere in the States." The statement may be a welcome revelation to Americans in search of health-care bargains. But to many Canadians, it clearly represents something else entirely: the sorry fate that awaits if cross-border health shopping produces a more American-style system north of the frontier.

JONATHAN HARRIS

Ross Laver



Personal Business

Internet on the tube

Judging by the results of a recent survey by Andersen Consulting, almost a third of adult Canadians have at some point logged on to the Internet. That's an undeniably impressive number, given that most people had probably never even heard of the global computer system until two or three years ago. But before anyone gets carried away with the image of Canada as a proud nation of cyber-surfers, it's worth bearing in mind—as the Andersen report makes clear—that much of today's Internet use takes place at work, where powerful desktop computers and on-line access are increasingly common. If the Internet is ever really going to live up to its potential, it has to find its way into the typical middle-class household, much as radio and television did earlier this century.

There are two major roadblocks that keep people from venturing onto the Information Highway. One is the expense. Although Internet service providers generally charge no more than about $30 a month for unlimited dial-up access, a new computer can easily set you back $3,000. The second hurdle is complexity. Think of it this way: how often would you use a toaster if it inexplicably seized up once or twice a week—usually when it was needed most—required frequent upgrades and had to be reconfigured with new software at least twice a year?

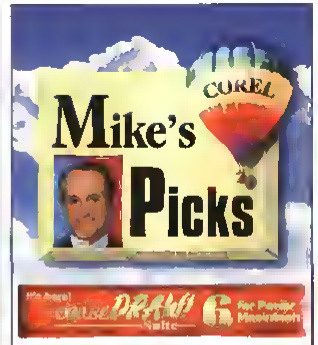
> **New technology promises to bring the World Wide Web within reach of every household budget**

Fortunately for the millions of Canadians who have never bought a PC, an answer to these problems may soon be at hand. For at least a year now, the computer industry has been debating the concept of an inexpensive, easy-to-use machine that can be hooked up to a television and used to browse the Net and send e-mail. At least half a dozen companies have unveiled prototypes of such devices, but none has been able to overcome one basic drawback: text and graphics that are designed for a high-resolution computer monitor simply do not look good on a regular TV screen. Now, however, a little-known California start-up has come up with a solution—and it has enlisted two of the biggest names in the global consumer electronics industry to bring it to market.

The company is WebTV Networks Inc., founded in June, 1995, by three multimedia pioneers who made their mark at Apple Computer. In essence, WebTV has designed a set-top box that allows consumers to instantly switch back and forth between traditional television and the Internet. Rather than a conventional cursor arrow controlled by a mouse, the machine is run by a simple, handheld remote control with arrow and scroll buttons. In addition, the boxes will come with a 33.6-kilobyte-per-second modem (slightly faster than the modems typically found in new computers), built-in operating software and a light that comes on to alert users when there are waiting messages. E-mail can be typed by clicking an on-screen keypad, or by using an optional wireless keyboard.

Most significantly, the system incorporates a clever, digital-image processing technology that converts Web pages to standard television signals, overcoming the problem of hard-to-read text. "From the beginning, our goal was to build an Internet product that could fit into anyone's life—that's why our approach is based around the television," says Bruce Leak, WebTV's chief operating officer. The company claims that novices will be able to hook up the box to a TV and phone line, register with the WebTV on-line service (about $25 a month) and begin exploring the Net within 15 minutes.

It sounds good in theory, but does WebTV have the marketing clout necessary to crack the broad consumer market? Fortunately for Leak and his partners, the company does not have to worry about that. Rather than manufacturing the boxes itself, WebTV has licensed the technology to Sony and Philips. The two electronics giants plan to begin selling the devices this fall, at a rumored initial price of about $450. Down the road, the boxes should retail for about $200—about the same as a video-game machine. At that price level, we may be on the verge of the first big test of the Internet as a mass consumer technology.



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Business NOTES

ARDELL QUITS SOUTHAM

Southam Inc. president William Ardell, 52, resigned, barely two weeks after Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. took formal control of the struggling Canadian newspaper publishing chain. Black moved immediately to appoint himself as Ardell's replacement as chief executive officer and install Hollinger president David Radler as deputy chairman and associate CEO.

INCO TAKEOVER PROCEEDS

Inco Ltd. reached a $34-million settlement in a Texas lawsuit, allowing the Toronto-based nickel producer to move ahead with its $4.5-billion takeover of Diamond Fields Resources Inc., one of the biggest mining deals in Canadian history. The main prize in the takeover: Diamond Fields' vast nickel, copper and cobalt deposits at Voisey's Bay, Nfld.

STAVRO GETS THE GARDENS

Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd., which owns the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team, ended 65 years as a public company with an angry meeting of 200 shareholders, some of whom had harsh words for Steve Stavro, majority owner and head of an investment group that acquired 95.7 per cent of Gardens shares. By law, he had the power to force the remaining shareholders to sell their shares and take the venerable company private.

TERRA NOVA DEAL

Newfoundland's Terra Nova offshore oilfield passed another hurdle after a financial deal was announced between the province and the developers, a five-member consortium led by Petro-Canada. Under the deal, the province estimates it will receive between $1 billion and $1.5 billion through royalties and corporate income tax during the course of the 15- to 18-year project.

CONSUMERS CUTS STORES

Consumers Distributing Inc. announced the closure of all its stores outside Ontario and Quebec. The troubled catalogue and showroom retailer said it will shut down 129 of 216 stores across Canada but continue to operate about 90 stores in the two central provinces. The store closures will throw about 500 full-time employees out of work. Consumers has about 1,200 full-time and 2,700 part-time employees.



BAYNE STANLEY

Housing starts: lower interest rates point to better times ahead

Economy rising—slowly

The Bank of Canada moved to stimulate consumer spending and spur business activity by cutting its trendsetting rate by one-quarter of a point for the second time in three weeks. The chartered banks immediately responded by saying they would reduce their prime lending rate by one-quarter of a point to six per cent. Earlier in the week, banks trimmed residential mortgage rates to their lowest level since last February. Analysts say the central bank decided to act in the face of several troubling trends. Among them: corporate profits fell 49 per cent to $5 billion in the three months that ended on June 30 compared with the same quarter last year, and housing starts fell 4.5 per cent in July from the previous month. As well, Statistics Canada reported that the unemployment rate fell marginally in July to 9.8 per cent from 10 per cent in the previous month because the economy added only 19,000 jobs, compared with a dramatic loss of 56,000 jobs in June. But even that dip in the unemployment rate was not viewed positively by some observers. "After all, the jobs rate has now been stuck above the nine-per-cent threshold for 70 consecutive months—a stretch not seen since the 1930s," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist at Nesbitt Burns.

Other experts believe, however, that the economy will perform more strongly in 1997. The Bank of Montreal released a report predicting that Canada's gross domestic product, a measure of the value of all goods and services produced in the country, will grow by 3.5 per cent next year, compared with 1.8 per cent in 1996. Pushing the economy ahead, the bank's economists predict, will be continued low inflation and falling interest rates.

MINING

A gem of a ruling

The backers of Canada's first diamond mine, Australia-based Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. and Kelowna, B.C.-based Dia Met Minerals Ltd., reacted jubilantly after the federal cabinet conditionally approved the project, located 300 km northeast of Yellowknife. "It appears we're coming very close to fulfillment of the dream," said Dia Met president James Eccott, whose company owns 29 per cent of the project. "To the best of my knowledge, nothing can hold it up at this point." Yellowknife Mayor David Lovell was equally excited, since the mine is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs and 830 permanent positions. Environmentalists and natives were less enthusiastic. "The Dogribs won't be happy until we reach an impact-and-benefits agreement," said Ted Blondin, a spokesman for the Dogrib First Nation whose traditional territory encompasses some of the area of the mine.

Call it telephonevision

Canadians may soon be able to purchase cable television services from their telephone companies, and turn to their cable companies for telephone services. After more than two years of study and public hearings, the federal government released its long-awaited policy on Information Age competition. The need for such a policy is based on what industry experts call "convergence"—technological developments that allow cable and phone companies to deliver a much broader range of signals. And convergence is expected to bring increased competition and lower prices. "It's an attempt to create a level playing field," said Heritage Minister Sheila Copps after announcing the new policy. "Consumers will have more choice in how they receive television, and they will have more choice in how they get local telephone service."

Now, it is up to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to come up with rules that protect consumers and ensure that Canadian content regulations are met. Once these rules are in place, possibly within a year, cable and phone companies could invest as much as $15 billion over a 10-year period to make convergence a reality. But given these costs, it remains to be seen whether the cable and telephone companies take the plunge.



Peter C. Newman

Jean Charest: a lonely long-distance runner

As he faces the fight of his political life, Jean Charest seems confident that many of the Tories who fled his party during the Brian Mulroney years will return to their spiritual home. Meeting with the 1,200 delegates expected at the Progressive Conservative Party policy conference in Winnipeg on Aug. 22 to 25, the PC leader must persuade them—and the country at large—that the Conservatives who ruled this country for 8½ of the last 12 years still deserve to be taken seriously.

Up to now, Charest has enjoyed a charmed political life. Having won his first election in 1984, he was immediately named assistant deputy Speaker of the Commons and, two years later, elevated to cabinet at age 28, appropriately as minister of state for youth. Within the next seven years, he rose to become deputy prime minister and, shortly afterwards, party leader. He now has everything except a party.

Charest dramatically demonstrated his potential as a stump politician during the 1995 referendum, as the only federal politician to come out of that meat grinder with an enhanced reputation. At that point, he was a proud patriot, now, he's an angry politician. "In the referendum," he told me in an interview last week, "the issue was Canada. In the coming campaign, the issue will be Jean Chrétien and his inactive government. Chrétien's administration has been the most unprincipled, cynical and opportunistic this country has ever seen."

> 'The Chrétien government has been the most unprincipled, cynical and opportunistic in our history'

The PC leader's strategy will be to target the Liberals and largely ignore Reform, because Charest firmly believes that is the way to dislodge the most votes his way. The 1997 campaign will also be about Canada's future as we step into a new century and this is where Charest, as the only leader young enough to straddle the millennium, will heat up the rhetoric. "The obligation that every generation has is to build bridges to those who follow behind," he says, rehearsing his lines for the next TV debate. "We cross our own rivers and it's one thing just to continue selfishly along and think about our own future, but we have an obligation to build a bridge to those following us—and that's what the next election will be all about.

"One of the quotes in the PC policy document is that by the year 2026, almost one in four Canadians will be 65 and over. I stopped myself when I read that and calculated how old I'd be in 2026, and discovered I'll be 68. When you combine that with the fact that there will be a lot fewer younger people paying and supporting all the things that we've come to expect, you begin to realize that it really is in our interest to build bridges to the next generation. I don't see the present government even being aware of the issue."

Charest has spent the past three years beating the political undergrowth for suitable candidates and party funds. His often frustrating search has paid off. He expects to have at least 100 candidates nominated by the end of the year. While no megastars have emerged so far, worthy contenders have come forward—the kind of community figures who quietly win seats. The party's finances are in surprisingly good shape with party debt down to $1.7 million from over $6 million four years ago. Donations are running slightly higher than last year, when the Tories collected $5.6 million.

What happens in Winnipeg is so essential because in the next election campaign Charest must create for himself a political high ground that will differentiate him from both the Reform party, which will be pushing its own conservative issues, and the Liberals, who have taken over most of Mulroney's political agenda.

In preparation for the Winnipeg convention, a 14-member committee has put together a 144-page policy report out of which the delegates will debate and discuss the principles put forward in the policy document and then vote on them. Their report is little more than common sense, but at least it recognizes the country's most urgent priorities and lays down a policy matrix for sensible debate. "After two full generations of looking to governments as both parent and all-purpose problem solver," its authors conclude, "many Canadians now see government itself as the problem rather than the solution, at best, as minimally helpful in managing change—at worst, as a barrier to change."

Like most party leaders, Charest insists he will not be bound by every detail of the policy document or the Winnipeg deliberations. One of the time bombs in the document, for example, recommends that a PC government restructure the CBC, and privatize its television service. "I'm a believer in public broadcasting, and I like CBC radio," he says. "I'm going to make it very clear that I have my own views on that."

The Tory policy paper tears into the inefficiencies of the Employment Insurance system, pointing out, for example, that in 1992, families in the Atlantic provinces with annual incomes of more than $50,000 received after-tax benefits totalling $226 million, while families with incomes below $10,000 received payments of only $62 million. Because this bizarre system undermines the value of work and discourages self-employment, the Conservative policy planners recommend returning EI to its original principles of insurance and the transfer of retraining to the provinces.

On the distinct society clause, which could hurt the party in Quebec if it's too mushy and decimate it in the West if it's too specific, the Tory policy planners have managed to come up with the worst of both worlds. They advocate recognition of Quebec as a distinct society "with respect to its language, culture and institutions," quickly pointing out in the next paragraph that this doesn't really mean anything. ("Distinct society does not constitute privilege, preferential treatment or superiority.")

Not before late next election night will it be clear whether Jean Charest has succeeded in his quest. But despite the odds against him, he knows that the only sure way to lose is not to try.

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51-47

Science

Life on Mars?

NASA scientists say a rock found in Antarctica shows signs of life on the ancient planet

BY MARK NICHOLS

It was an evening in summer upon the placid and temperate planet Mars. Up and down green wine canals, boats as delicate as bronze flowers drifted. In the amphitheatres of a hundred towns on the night side of Mars the brown Martian people with gold coin eyes were leisurely met to fix their attention upon stages where musicians made a serene music flow up like blossom scent on the still air.

—Ray Bradbury, *The Martian Chronicles*

There is something about Mars that has long led Earthlings to wonder whether there might be life on the planet that glows bright red in the night sky. Writing in the 1940s, novelist Ray Bradbury imagined a wise and ancient race of Martians. But most sci-fi writers preferred to see them as little green men or as malign, tentacled monsters. The truth could turn out to be a lot less colorful—and far more exciting. A team of scientists, including a Canadian who specializes in producing images from advanced electron microscopes, last week presented evidence suggesting that primitive life forms may have once existed on Mars. Team members cautioned that the case for life on Mars had yet to be conclusively proved. "We are putting this evidence out to the scientific community for other investigators to verify, enhance, attack—disprove if they can," said Everett Gibson, a geochemist at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston. It was a challenge with phenomenal implications. As Toronto astronomer Karl Kamper observed, if the findings are substantiated, "for the first time we will have evidence that life can exist on other planets—that life isn't simply the result of a cosmic accident on our own planet."

The announcement in Washington by scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and three universities stunned the international scientific community, prompting criticism in some quarters that the claims were premature and exaggerated—and enthusiastic praise in others. President Bill Clinton was clearly impressed. "If this discovery is confirmed," Clinton said in Washington, "it will surely be one of the most stunning insights into our universe that science has ever uncovered." With two unmanned U.S. spacecraft already scheduled to embark later this year on flights aimed at gathering new information about Mars, Clinton said he had asked Vice-President Al Gore to convene a high-level meeting to look at ways of pursuing the question of whether life may have existed on Mars.

The cause of all the excitement: an unimposing lump of dark-colored rock weighing just over four pounds and known as ALH84001. According to the researchers, whose findings are being published this week in the Washington-based journal *Science*, the rock had an eventful life. Formed on Mars about 4½ billion years ago when the planet was young and perhaps warmer than it is today, it was torn from that planet's surface around 15 million years ago by the impact of a comet or asteroid. Hurled into space, the rock became a meteorite that orbited the Solar System until it was sucked into the Earth's gravitational field about 13,000 years ago. Scientists found it in Antarctica in 1984. They subsequently identified it as Martian in origin after finding that gases trapped inside were similar to samples taken from the surface of Mars by unmanned Viking spaceships in 1976.



An electron microscope view of the suspected microbe on ALH84001 (above); sci-fi visions of Martians from 1964, 1975 and 1939 (below): a source of wonder for Earthlings



But what made ALH84001 really interesting were traces of material in its interior that hinted of the presence long ago of a primitive microbial life form. Last year, scientists from California's Stanford University studying the rock detected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), a type of molecule that is usually organic in origin. Other team members focused on iron-bearing particles in the meteorite that appeared similar to those produced by some bacteria on Earth.

To help study another intriguing aspect of the meteorite, Dr. David McKay, the NASA geochemist in charge of the research project, decided last January to call on a Canadian expert—Dr. Hojatollah Vali, a senior scientist in McGill University's department of earth and planetary sciences in Montreal. The Iranian-born Vali, who came to Canada in 1989, is an internationally recognized expert on transmission electron microscopy—an advanced technology that can achieve such a high degree of magnification that the molecular structure of objects becomes visible. Besides his technical skills, Vali's own scientific interests made him an ideal choice to study the meteorite. "I have a passion," Vali told *Maclean's*, "for trying to understand the origins of life."

Vali's assignment at the Johnson Space Center was to study microscopic squiggles in the meteorite to determine whether they could be the fossilized remnants of microbes. His high-resolution images, which showed tube-like structures similar to microbial fossils on Earth, convinced team members that they probably were. "There is not any one finding that leads us to believe that this is evidence of past life on Mars," declared McKay. "Rather, it is a combination of many things"—PAHs, iron-bearing substances and possible fossil remains—"that is the most compelling evidence."

Some scientists are not so easily convinced. Dr. Paul Benoit, a specialist in cosmological chemistry at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, argues that the presence of PAHs and other organic compounds in the meteorite is not convincing proof. Such substances, he says, are often found in meteorites "that we know did not come from other planets." Other scientists pointed out that the team's theory rests on a number of unproven assumptions—including the idea that Mars, now a largely frigid and arid planet, once had a warmer climate with flowing water and conditions favorable to life. And critics noted that even though scientists have persuasive reasons for believing that the meteorite is Martian in origin, that claim has not been proved.

At the same time, if the dramatic new theory about life on Mars *is* substantiated, that will only serve to raise more questions about the origins of life. Many scientists believe that life on Earth may have emerged from a chance mixing of just the right elements in a "primordial soup" that existed billions of years ago—perhaps with a bolt of lightning acting as catalyst. If living organisms came into being that way on both Earth and Mars, that, some scientists reason, could be an extraordinary coincidence, or it could mean that life arises relatively easily and therefore is probably widespread throughout the universe.

There are other possibilities as well. Life may have begun far beyond the Solar System—and reached Earth and Mars as spores travelling through interstellar space. Alternatively, since science has confirmed that chunks of planets often reach other planets as meteorites—life might have originated on either Earth or Mars, and travelled to the other planet aboard a meteorite. "It's all very fanciful stuff," says Hal Levison, a planetary scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colo., "but if either of those things happened, it's much more likely, because of Earth's stronger gravitational field, that life originally came to Earth from Mars."

Further study of the meteorite, as well as journeys that NASA's Mars Global Surveyor and Pathfinder spacecraft are scheduled to begin in November and December, could shed more light on whether Mars ever supported primitive forms of life—and perhaps still does. (Some scientists speculate that microbial life might exist in warmer conditions far below Mars's surface.) Meanwhile, Vali says the expressions of doubt that greeted the announcement in Washington are fully justified. "I agree with the skeptics," Vali says. "We have to do much more to prove the claims that have been made. The important thing is that we have made a start in looking at this thing." It could be some time before Earthlings know for certain whether life ever flourished on Mars—or anywhere else in the endless expanses of the universe. □

Old train lines offer new possibilities

BY D'ARCY JENISH

It was a day of toasts, receptions and speeches full of civic boosterism. On Jan. 15, 1861, politicians, businessmen and ordinary citizens of Peterborough, Ont., celebrated the completion of a new railway, the Grand Junction, linking their community with Belleville, 100 km southeast on the shores of Lake Ontario. Local newspapers filled their front pages with stories of the grand event, and one journalist observed that "if Peterborough and Belleville want to prosper, they must get more railroads." But times change. Once the key to prosperity, railways like the Grand Junction, which was absorbed by Canadian National in 1923, have become economic anachronisms. In many cases, the trains have disappeared, and so have the rails. But across the country, outdoor enthusiasts, among them walkers, cyclists and snowmobilers, have begun to bring abandoned rail beds back to life as recreational trails. "People are just beginning to realize the amount of line that might be available," says Anne Robinson, executive director of the Ottawa-based Canadian Rails to Greenways Network. "There's enormous potential."

Since early July, CP Rail and CN have announced plans to sell or abandon 6,000 km of track—on top of the nearly 11 000 km dumped over the past decade. As they struggle to remain efficient and profitable, the railways are closing lightly used money losing lines, many built in the 19th century, and selling the property to adjacent landowners or allowing them to become overgrown and impassable. "We're blindly allowing many corridors to be lost to the public," says Bryan Howard, co-ordinator of trails and greenways for the Ontario ministry of natural resources.

Meanwhile, grassroots groups are developing innovative and sometimes grandly ambitious plans for abandoned rail beds. For example, old rail lines are to be an integral part of the Trans-Canada Trail, a proposed cross-country trail stretching from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. John Bellini, executive director of the Montreal-based Trans-Canada Trail Foundation, says his project would allow the old rail beds to tie the country together again. Organizers of the trail, which is being funded through private donations and corporate sponsorships, hope to complete it by the turn of the century—even though they have finished only 400 km to date. "It is a contemporary extension of the transcontinental railway or the Trans-Canada Highway," says Bellini. "There's a sense of building a nation."

The transition from rail bed to rail trail is often a lengthy process. Once a railway receives federal approval to abandon a line, it removes the rails and ties. The corridor may remain vacant and neglected for years until a buyer appears. In the interim, local walkers, cyclists, snowmobilers and cyclists frequently take over the rail beds for recreational purposes. And this spontaneous use often leads to disputes with adjacent farmers who complain, among other things, of excessive noise, damaged fences and broken gates.

For the railways, the ideal solution is to sell entire lines to one buyer, usually a government. But the responses vary from capital to capital. Provincial governments in Atlantic Canada have decided to buy all of the available abandoned lines or significant chunks of them. In the region, Prince Edward Island has the most advanced rail trail network—spending $3 million, most of it federal money, to develop the 350-km Confederation Trail, which will cover the province and be part of the Trans-Canada. One-third of the work, which includes grading and resurfacing the beds, erecting signs, posting maps and building washrooms, is done, with the remainder scheduled for completion by the turn of the century. "We see the trail as a major new tourist attraction," says Ronald MacNeil, the Island's director of tourism development.

The governments of the Prairie provinces represent the other end of the spectrum, showing little interest in acquiring old rail beds, while Ontario, with 38 trails running a total of just over 1,000 km, has one of the most extensive network of developed pathways in North America. In most Ontario cases, the province or a municipality buys a line, then allows a local management board composed of snowmobilers, cyclists, hikers and other users to develop, maintain and operate the trail. Those costs are generally shared by the municipality and the users.

But the user groups frequently face opposition from adjacent landowners, particularly farmers. Earlier this year, the Ontario government reached an agreement with CN to purchase 155 km of rail bed running from Belleville to Uxbridge, just north of Toronto, including the former Grand Junction right-of-way, for about $500,000. This corridor could be a vital link in the Trans-Canada Trail because it would allow for a route through heavily populated southern Ontario. Landowners at several points along the abandoned line, however, have already indicated to municipal politicians that they are adamantly opposed to a recreational trail, and may lobby against the project. They must be won over before development can proceed, and that will not be easy. "We have no interest in rails-for-trails or people coming through our property," says Glen Cornell, who owns a 250-acre farm 20 km west of Peterborough that is bisected by the old rail line, "and 99 per cent of our neighbors agree with us."

Once established, the trails attract a loyal core of users. For one thing, the trails are safe for walkers and cyclists because motorized vehicles, with the exception of snowmobiles, are usually prohibited. In addition, the trails are generally flat because trains are incapable of climbing or descending steep grades. "Rail trails are great for people who want to get out in the countryside for a walk or to ride a bicycle," says Ian Watson, a retired accountant who has regularly cycled the Victoria County trail, a 55-km corridor from Lindsay to Fenelon Falls in central Ontario, for the past 10 years. "They're quiet, they're gentle and they allow you to appreciate our history. If we didn't have the railways, many parts of this country wouldn't have been built." The trains may be going, or gone, but for many Canadians the rail trails are a way of preserving a piece of that heritage.



D'ARCY JENISH

Bicycling on Ontario's former Grand Junction, outdoor enthusiasts have begun to bring abandoned rail beds back to life

A RIDE ON THE RAILS

Rail biking—what better use for abandoned rail lines? That, at least, is the opinion of North America's very small, but very determined, group of rail bikers. About 1,000 enthusiasts, some 100 of them in Canada, regularly ride the tracks, on bicycles equipped with a front guide and an outrigger attached to the rear wheel to balance them as they glide on the rails. Now, rail-biking proponents are competing against rails-to-trails groups for use of the increasing number of abandoned railroad tracks in Canada and the United States. "Rails-to-trails are doing the next best thing," says Bob Mellin, author of *Railbike, Cycling on Abandoned Railroads* and editor of an international rail-bike association newsletter in San Anselmo, Calif. He and others argue that converting rail beds into recreational trails will ruin the infrastructures forever. Instead, abandoned tracks should be maintained—and separate, surrounding trails developed for other activities such as hiking and biking. "We can all co-exist," Mellin says.

It may be a hopeless prospect. Rail biking has its origins in the 1800s, when U.S. railroad officials rode the rails on three-wheeled, lightweight contraptions to inspect tracks and telegraph poles. Since then, dozens of do-it-yourself tinkerers have invented and patented their own rail-bike designs. But while the activity offers gentle grades, picturesque vistas and abundant wildlife unreachable by car—and is an accepted pastime in parts of Europe—it has not caught on in North America. For one thing, the thought of riding a bicycle along rail lines is, for many people, disconcerting. "The gut reaction of the public is that it's dangerous and the immediate reaction is, 'What happens if a train comes along?'" explains Mellin, whose group is currently exploring the possibility of establishing a commercial rail-bike facility in conjunction with short-line railroads in California.

According to rail bikers, such fears are groundless: most of the die-hard enthusiasts in North America, Mellin says, only use abandoned tracks. That is an argument that railroad officials do not buy. "What we know, we don't like," says Ben Levesque, national director of Operation Lifesaver, a safety program sponsored by the Railway Association of Canada and Transport Canada. "It's a very dangerous pastime. They claim they ride on abandoned tracks but we find them on live tracks." To date rail biking has caused no fatalities or reported injuries—but it has whipped up some controversy. Last March, the case of Dale Churchill of Victoria became front-page news on Vancouver Island. The 55-year-old Churchill had only biked six kilometres on a live Vancouver Island rail line when he was stopped by a local RCMP officer for trespassing. "I'm actually super careful because I don't want to get myself in trouble," says Churchill, who has been a rail-biking enthusiast since 1994 and who, in this case, eventually got off with a warning. Giving more abandoned rail lines over to rail bikers would help avoid such incidents, proponents say—and go a long way towards increasing rail biking's popularity.

SHOWWEI CHU

DESIGNER VITAMINS

'Nutraceuticals' promise a health revolution

For most of its short history, the everyday science of vitamin and mineral supplements has been a relative no-brainer. If you have a cold, gulp down some vitamin C. To slow hardening of the arteries, take daily doses of vitamin E. But now, the world of health-food supplements is quickly becoming very complex. Spurred by legislation passed last year in the United States that allows supplement manufacturers to attach therapeutic claims to their products, dozens of American companies are now selling formulas with names like Higher Mind, a pill that purports to boost mental alertness, and VitalEyes, one that promises to do the same for a person's vision. They belong to a new generation of "nutraceuticals," a wide array of plant extracts, amino acids and sugars, and compounds made from herbs, vitamins and minerals. Going beyond the simple replacement of nutritional deficiencies, the new concoctions boast drug-like properties that can enhance various aspects of a person's physiology. "There's been an explosion in nutraceuticals," says Zoltan Rona, a Toronto physician and author of the 1995 book *Return to the Joy of Health*. "Research in this area is accelerating fast."



Rona: 'there is 20 lb. of published research on the topic in my office'

Many of the latest nutraceuticals rely on familiar ingredients blended into cutting-edge, biochemical cocktails. Higher Mind, for instance, contains 13 different vitamins and minerals, as well as a dozen amino acids (organic molecules that are the building blocks for proteins in animals and humans). But the key ingredient in the orange-colored tablet is phosphatidyl serine (PS), one of the fat-like substances known as phospholipids that form an essential part of every living cell, particularly the membranes of nerve cells. Those are the sites in the human brain that trigger the release of neurotransmitters, chemical messengers that relay information to neighboring nerve cells. Source Naturals, the California nutraceutical-maker that put Higher Mind on the market last year, claims that PS supplements stimulate the release of neurotransmitters, thereby heightening a person's ability to think, reason and concentrate. "Some of the studies that show diet can boost neurotransmitter levels have been around since the '60s," says Source Naturals nutritionist Lisa Sleige, adding that two dozen clinical trials have investigated the effect of PS supplements on more than 1,200 human subjects.

But claims like the one advertised for Higher Mind have been greeted with skepticism in parts of the scientific community. Many doctors insist that people with a balanced diet do not need to take even basic vitamin supplements. And they charge that the health benefits being promoted for the latest generation of nutraceuticals are unscientific at best—and fraudulent at worst. That, says Toronto's Rona, is because most physicians have not even heard of the reams of studies involving nutraceuticals, let alone read them. Rona adds that the medical establishment is opposed to natural-based remedies because modern healing is focused on selling drugs made by large pharmaceutical firms to patients. "For those who say that herbs, minerals and amino acids are unproven when there is at least 20 lb. of published research on the topic sitting in my office—I say they don't know what they're talking about," he declares. "What *they* are practising is unscientific."

Companies like Source Naturals are eager to provide piles of scientific studies, many of them published in European medical journals, to back up assertions of their products' health benefits. Typical is the case of GlucosaMend, a formula that, according to Source Naturals, holds out hope to arthritis sufferers. The pill's key ingredient is the amino sugar N-acetylglucosamine. Source Naturals cites a 1991 German study in which the amino sugar demonstrated anti-inflammatory effects in laboratory rats with knee-joint damage, as well as earlier studies conducted in Portugal and the Philippines that showed a reduction in pain and swelling among osteoarthritis patients after treatment.

But Dr. Stephen DeFelice, who is credited with coining the term nutraceuticals, says the studies associated with products like GlucosaMend, Higher Mind and VitalEyes are merely suggestive, not convincing. DeFelice, a nutraceutical advocate who is chairman of the Foundation for Innovation in Medicine, a Cranford, N.J.-based, nonprofit research institute, says that while many of the clinical studies have tested agents like N-acetylglucosamine, few trials have been done on the commercial products that contain them. "I know that nutraceuticals work," says DeFelice, "but I can't give specific products to patients without scientific proof. The literature is loaded with promising data, but it will take up to five years before we have 100 per cent definitive data."

Canada, however, is yet to see much of the action. The federal department of health has classified all amino acids—as well as compounds mixing vitamins, herbs or minerals—as drugs. That means, Rona says, that only about 15 per cent of the nutraceutical arsenal now on sale in the United States is available in Canada because few manufacturers have the patience or money to contend with the country's drawn-out approval process, which has a high rejection rate. But that has not stopped many fans of the latest nutraceuticals—cross-border shopping and mail orders by Canadians are helping to fuel the current boom.

PAUL KAIHLA

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HIGH-TECH TOLLS

Ontario gets set to open the road of the future

Clark Pope knows a bad road when he sees one, and Highway 401 through the north end of Toronto—the busiest thoroughfare in Canada—is one of the worst "It's a pain in the neck," says Pope, a bus driver for 35 years "You try to stay away from it if you can." Soon, he will be able to avoid its chronic congestion more easily By the end of the year, the world's most technologically advanced toll highway will offer motorists an alternative to the 401—for a price The $1 2-billion 407 Express Toll Route, or 407 ETR—running parallel to the 401 and just to the north—features a toll system that does away with delay-causing toll-booth con tosses Instead, the system will identify vehicles electronically as they enter and exit the highway, then send monthly bills Designed to appeal to all drivers in a hurry the highway is already the object of much anticipation Says Pope. "I'll be using it quite a bit."

So, according to transportation ministry forecasts, will a lot of others The provincial government expects about 55,000 motorists a day to use the first phase—a six-lane, 36-km stretch linking Brampton in the west with Markham in the east—when it opens by December (On average, more than 350,000 vehicles a day now use the 401) In its final phase, due for completion in 1998, the 407 will run 69 km from Oakville in the west to farther into Markham Transportation officials in other provinces, meanwhile, are watching the project as they, too, introduce or consider electronic tolls In Nova Scotia, Highway 104, a $113-million, 45-km upgrade of the Trans-Canada Highway north of Truro due to open in late 1997 will combine electronic tolling with conventional toll booths New Brunswick is considering high-tech tolling for a planned $600 million highway between Fredericton and Moncton. Similar roads are also under consideration in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia.

Ontario's pioneering 407 system, developed and funded by a joint public and private-sector partnership works in two ways. For a flat fee of $10, drivers will be able to lease a small electronic device called a transponder that identifies their vehicle to the toll system As a vehicle enters the highway, the transponder, stuck on the windshield behind the rearview mirror, picks up a signal from the toll technology, then returns a signal identifying itself A message is then transmitted back to the transponder, which records the date, time and where the driver entered At the off-ramp, that information is then relayed to another bank of surveillance equipment, which also records the time and place of the driver's exit The information is then passed on to a computerized "revenue management system," which tallies up the driver's bill

Motorists without transponders will activate the system's second billing method All entrances will be equipped with cameras, which will take a digitized photo of the licence plate of vehicles entering and leaving the highway For cars without transponders, the two digital photos are electronically matched and the distance travelled computed. The computer then scans a database of vehicle registrations, gets the appropriate address and sends the bill Talks to gain access to similar records are under way with various provinces and states, including Manitoba, Quebec, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York And in case a nefarious trucker tries to save money by using a car transponder, a bank of lasers will measure the length, width and height of all vehicles using the highway

Toll rates will vary according to time of day and other factors. A regular commuter in a car equipped with a transponder will likely pay 10 cents per kilometre during rush hours That price should drop to seven cents during the rest of the day, and four cents at night, weekends and holidays. For someone with a transponder making the daily rush hour round trip across the entire 69 km of road—roughly a 40-minute drive at 100 km/h in each direction—that would come to nearly $14 per day Commercial vehicles, which must have special transponders, will pay up to three times as much Cars without transponders will pay a premium, yet to be set. But in spite of having to dig into their wallets for the privilege of an open road, weary veterans of the 401, like Pope, will likely be willing to pay the price

DANYLO HAWALESHKA



DAVID LEIGH MACLEAN

Assembling transponders: a new superhighway that does away with the inconvenience of toll booths



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CALENDAR

An international air show, symphonies, alternative theatre and a honey festival mark the late summer

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Aug. 9-Sept. 28: Tommy, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver. Pete Townshend's perennially popular rock opera presents Edmontonian Tim Howar, in his first starring role, as the deaf, dumb and blind pinball wizard.

Aug. 17-18: Vancouver International Air Races and Air Show, Boundary Bay Airport, Delta. The inaugural event offers aerobatic performances, sky divers, vintage planes in the air and on the ground, and remote-control aircraft demonstrations.

ALBERTA

Aug. 16-25: The Fringe Unhinged, Edmonton. In its 15th year, the oldest and largest alternative theatre festival in North America presents 1,500 performers from as far afield as Japan and New Zealand and attracts almost half-a-million spectators annually.

SPOTLIGHT

ALBERTA

Sept. 4-8: The Masters, Spruce Meadows, Calgary. Most of the Olympic show jumpers will move from Atlanta to Calgary for Canada's premier horse show, featuring the $200,000 Bank of Montreal Nations' Cup for teams and the $750,000 du Maurier International, the horse world's richest event for individual riders.

SASKATCHEWAN

Aug. 16-18: Tisdale Honey Festival. The town in the heart of the province's honey-producing region, 200 km northeast of Saskatoon, celebrates apiculture with games, demonstrations and a bee-keeping competition.

MANITOBA

Sept. 20-21: Symphonic Awakening, Centennial Concert Hall, Winnipeg. The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra presents guest Frank Lloyd on the French horn and a program that includes Mozart's *Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat major* and *Symphony No. 1 in D major* by Mahler.

ONTARIO

Sept. 10-22: Any Resemblance to Famous People Dead or Alive Is Strictly Intentional, Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto. Andre-Philippe Gagnon, master of more than 300 voice impressions, brings to life dozens of politicians and pop icons, from Brian Mulroney to Fred Flintstone.

To Sept. 22: Corot, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. The exhibition features 152 works by Camille Corot, often regarded as the greatest French landscape painter of the 19th century and a major influence on French Impressionism.

QUEBEC

Aug. 22-Sept. 2: World Film Festival, Montreal. One of Canada's major film festivals draws 300,000 moviegoers yearly with showings of 300 international films.

To Oct. 27: Magritte, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The first Canadian exhibition of Belgian surrealist René Magritte (1898-1967) features more than 100 of his extraordinary works.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Sept. 10-15: Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, Fredericton. Almost 200 musicians perform 75 shows, many of them free, in the city's outdoor Officers' Square. Headliners include Chicago pianist Pinetop Perkins and Kingston, Ont., blues singer Georgette Fry.

NOVA SCOTIA

Sept. 7-8: Helen Creighton Folklore Festival, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site. The early 20th-century Maritime folklorist is honored with music, storytelling, dance, crafts and traditional foods.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Aug. 29-Sept. 2: Festival of the Fathers, Charlottetown. In the birthplace of Confederation, the Charlottetown Conference of 1864 is recalled with vintage Victorian events including, as a special nod to the Fathers of Confederation, a 10-tavern tour.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Aug. 24-Sept. 2: Viking Encampment, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. The only authenticated Norse settlement in the New World is brought to life with iron-working, spinning and other activities of a millennium ago.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Aug. 23-25: Dene Summer Games, Wha Ti. The newly renamed Lac La Martre, 150 km northwest of Yellowknife, hosts a competition in traditional native games.

YUKON

Sept. 7: Anton Kuerti, Yukon Arts Centre, Whitehorse. The centre opens its fifth season with a concert of classical fare from the Vienna-born pianist.

NEXT

A sampling of upcoming diversions

MOVIES

The Fan Robert De Niro plays an obsessed fan who stalks a baseball player played by Wesley Snipes.

Kansas City Robert Altman directs Jennifer Jason Leigh as a gangster's moll in a jazz-era drama.

Solo Mario Van Peebles stars as a sort of Afro-American Terminator, a covert government warrior made of synthetic material.

The Island of Dr. Moreau An adaptation of the H. G. Wells novel featuring Val Kilmer, Marlon Brando and David Thewlis.

VIDEO

Up Close and Personal A corny romance featuring Michelle Pfeiffer as an aspiring TV journalist and Robert Redford as her crusty mentor.

Mary Reilly Despite a good idea—retelling the Jekyll-Hyde story from the viewpoint of Jekyll's maid—the movie, starring Julia Roberts, is a crashing bore.

From Dusk till Dawn In this over-the-top drama, Quentin Tarantino and ER's George Clooney play hardened criminals who, while fleeing the law, run into a bunch of vampires.

The Truth About Cats and Dogs Playing a radio-host veterinarian whose voice wins the affection of an English photographer, Janeane Garofalo saves this highly unlikely romantic comedy.

BOOKS

The Merchants of Venus: Inside Harlequin and the Empire of Romance Paul Grescoe (Raincoast). The story of how Harlequin seduced women around the world.

The Last Don Mario Puzo (Random House). Another Mafia saga from the godfather of the genre.

In Search of a New Left: Canadian Politics After the Neoconservative Assault James Laxer (Penguin). Proposals for making social democracy meaningful again from a former NDP rebel.

Angel Walk Katherine Govier (Little, Brown). A woman recalls her adventures as a Second World War correspondent in London.

AUDIO

Whistling down the Wind David Crosby and Graham Nash (MCA). A new collaboration by two Woodstock generation rockers.

Omnipop Sam Phillips (EMI). More distinctive vocals and provocative lyrics from the singer voted Best Female Artist by *Rolling Stone* in 1994.

Schoenberg Piano Concerto and the Chamber Symphonies Alfred Brendel, SWF Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden, Michael Gielen (Polygram). The renowned pianist took a break from his Beethoven cycle to tackle a modern master.

Still Riot Ferron (Warner). A major-label debut from the legendary Vancouver folkie.

People

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS



REUTER

Heroes' welcome

It was a scene repeated the world over, medal-winning athletes returning from the Atlanta Olympic Games being greeted by cheering crowds, festive celebrations—and the potential for plumper wallets. In Canada, kayaker **Caroline Brunet**, 27, who won a silver medal in the K1 event on the last day of the Games, received an unusual salute at the Quebec City airport—an arch of paddles. Fredericton honored swimmer **Marianne Limpert**, 23, who won silver in the women's 200-m individual medley, by renaming a street Limpert Lane. But Oakville, Ont., will have to wait until mid-September to fete double gold winner **Donovan Bailey**. He is touring Europe and Japan, where he could earn up to $75,000 a race, before returning home. Bailey will also be busy signing enough commercial endorsements to make him a millionaire.

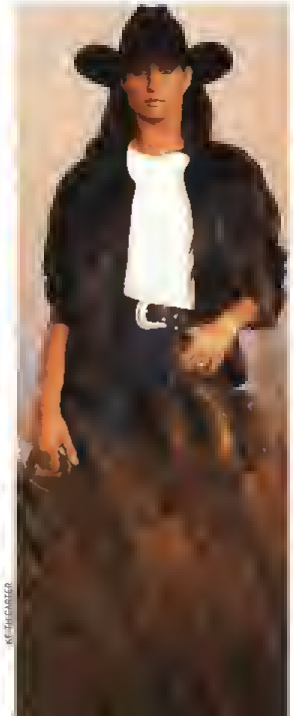
Brunet: greeted with a salute of paddles

A Canadian writer's newfound respect

Canadian science fiction writer **Robert J. Sawyer** is achieving a status seldom accorded his counterparts—mainstream respect. One illustration of that acceptance: the second paperback edition of his sixth novel, *The Terminal Experiment*, is labelled simply fiction. "Most people won't read science fiction and need something external to say it isn't junk,' says Sawyer, 36, of Thornhill, Ont., who is grateful for the opportunity to reach a wider audience. Despite its new labelling, *The Terminal Experiment*—a murder mystery set in Toronto in the near future after a biomedical engineer discovers scientific proof of the existence of the human soul—is receiving raves from Sawyer's traditional fans. First published in April, 1995, it won the Nebula Award, which is voted on by U.S. SF writers, last April, and the Aurore Award, chosen by Canadian readers, last month. As well, the book is one of five novels shortlisted for the Hugo Award, science fiction's international readers'-choice award, to be announced on Sept. 1. There is no prize money with the award, but Sawyer says he is still thrilled to be nominated. "It increases my advances on future novels."

A new star on the country music horizon

Receiving seven nominations last week for the Canadian Country Music Awards in September took singer **Terri Clark** by surprise. "I thought I might get one or two," she told *Maclean's*, "but seven, holy cow." The 27-year-old singer, who was born in Medicine Hat, Alta., but has lived in Nashville since she was 18, is in good company: she tied the record number of nominations that country superstar **Shania Twain** received last year for *The Woman in Me*, which has sold more than eight million copies. But Clark, in Montana while touring to promote her debut CD, *Terri Clark*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies in Canada, says there is no rivalry between her and Twain. In fact, she adds, Twain's success is good for all women in the industry. "It just keeps opening doors for all of us."



K.C. ELLIOTT/CASTER

Clerk: no rivalry with Twain



Russell: thinking he and Snake are taller

No escape from Hollywood

In his new feature film, *Escape from L.A.*, actor **Kurt Russell** shares writing credits with director **John Carpenter** and producer **Debra Hill**. And while the sequel to Carpenter's 1981 cult classic, *Escape from New York*, is full of action and adventure—not to mention violence—Russell also shows that he has a sense of humor. He has reprised his role as Snake Plissken, a famous desperado who the government occasionally puts to use. When characters first encounter Snake, they invariably say to him "I thought you'd be taller." Russell, 45, who at five-feet, eight-inches is not all that short, says he included the line in the movie because fans so often tell him the same thing. Adds Russell: "When you've been on a movie screen that's 100 feet by 50 feet, people think you're 20 feet tall."

The call of the wild

BY D'ARCY JENISH

In July, 1936, shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Ronald Douglas Lawrence joined the Republican forces defending Spain's precarious democracy against fascist rebels. Within days of enlisting, the Spanish-born Lawrence (Spanish mother, British father) got his first taste of combat. He and his best friend were ordered to lead a contingent of troops through the sewers of Barcelona, where Lawrence lived, to the city's waterfront. The objective was to come up behind three dockside warehouses and ambush the enemy soldiers holed up inside. In the ensuing gun battle, the friend died, and Lawrence killed his first man. He was a few weeks shy of his 15th birthday.

Now 74 and living on a 100-acre wilderness spread in the Haliburton Highlands, 170 km north of Toronto, Lawrence avoids discussing the two years he fought in Spain, or the five he served as a British soldier in the Second World War. Those years, he says, were full of death, destruction and sorrow, a striking contrast to his life's work since then—the observation, study and preservation of the natural world. For years, he has been caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, ranging from rabbits and raccoons to foxes and wolves, sent to him by humane societies and individuals across the country. And he has been writing. Over the past three decades, Lawrence has produced 29 books—his most recent, a collection of essays about animals called *A Shriek in the Forest Night*, was released in April by Toronto-based Stoddart Publishing—that reflect a lifetime spent studying and observing nature. "As far back as I can remember," he says, "two things have always been part of my life. One is writing. The other is an interest in the environment."

A tall, distinguished-looking man with greying hair and dark intense eyes, Lawrence has spun his personal experiences and observations into compelling fiction and nonfiction about the animal kingdom. In spare but highly evocative prose, Lawrence has described the exhilaration of swimming with sharks and whales, the thrill of running with wolves and pumas. He has also challenged much conventional wisdom about animal behavior. Lawrence maintains, for example, that sharks, far from being the born killers of myth and Hollywood movies, only attack humans when threatened or provoked. "He has a very deep sensitivity to landscapes and wildlife," says Monte Hummel, president of the Toronto-based World Wildlife Fund Canada. "But he's an undiscovered asset to this country because he's never advocated his issues in a public, strident way."

Besides being one of Canada's most prolific contemporary writers, Lawrence is also one of the most widely read. His books have been published in 16 countries and 14 languages, including German, Italian, Norwegian, Chinese and Japanese. *Cry Wild*, his most popular work and one of five books he has written about wolves, sold a 1½ million copies in the first three months after its release in the United States in 1991. Yet he is far from a household name in Canada, largely because of his disdain for any kind of promotion. "He's a publicist's nightmare," says Anna Porter, chairman of Toronto-based Key Porter Books, which will publish his newest work, a study of owls titled *Silent Flyers* next spring. "He does not want to be in a hotel room. If we can get him to Toronto for one night, he'll do an interview in the morning and he's gone."

While avoiding media exposure, Lawrence and his wife, Sharon, 54, have opened their home near the resort town of Haliburton to more than 6,000 visitors in the past 12 years. Most are Canadians, but others come from the United States, Europe and even Japan. And for some, a trip to the Lawrence spread is a near mystical experience. "There was a young couple in their early twenties from Belgium who had read Ron's books," recalls Sharon. "They kept asking in letters if they could come and visit. Finally, the husband phoned and said they were going to come, and this was January. They stayed two weeks and just looked at the trees, and watched the birds and animals. They couldn't get over the land and the lakes. The woman said to me, 'I didn't think there was a place like this left in the world.'"

A life in the bush has produced 29 books—and counting

Lawrence developed a fascination with nature as a child. The youngest of five children born to a journalist and his wife, he spent his early years in a village on the Mediterranean in northern Spain with, as he puts it, "the sea in front of me and mountains behind me." His idyllic boyhood was shattered by political turmoil, culminating in 1936 with the start of the Spanish Civil War. Lawrence described his war experiences in his 1994 autobiography, *The Green Trees Beyond*, which he says he wrote only after repeated requests from publishers and friends. And he candidly acknowledged in the book that military combat left him an emotionally scarred young man. "In war, the enemy was to be killed, wounded or captured," he wrote. "I felt no pity, either for the enemy or my companions, and I sought no friendships."

Lawrence fled Spain for France in the summer of 1938, after fighting in numerous gun battles and being wounded twice, and made his way to Britain, where he was reunited with his family. In September, 1939, he was back in uniform, this time as a British soldier. His Second World War experiences were even more harrowing, as he saw soldiers killed all around him. Lawrence trained as a tank gunner and fought against German forces in the deserts of North Africa for more than two years. He landed on the beaches of Normandy late on June 6, 1944, D-Day, and was knocked out of action two months later when he was severely wounded in a furious tank battle.

While Lawrence will not discuss his wartime experiences, he has saved a couple of souvenirs that he readily shows visitors to his Haliburton home. The first is a jagged piece of steel about half an inch in diameter—the largest of the 39 pieces of shrapnel that British doctors removed from him in August, 1944. The other is a German bullet fired from a machine-gun on a Messerschmitt fighter plane. It hit his belt buckle and ricocheted into his abdomen, worming its way between skin and muscle without causing serious damage.

In the decade after the war, Lawrence felt adrift and homeless. He disliked peacetime Britain and no longer felt comfortable in Spain. He studied biology at Cambridge University for four years but did not obtain his degree because, he says, he wrote his thesis in everyday as opposed to scientific language. Returning to Spain, he worked as a journalist and wrote a couple of murder mysteries that were published in Spanish. In 1950, Lawrence married a British woman, the first of three wives, and moved back to England where they had a son in 1953. But still restless and full of



Lawrence: when he moved to Canada, 'it was as if I had come home after a long absence'

doubts, he sailed for Canada in June, 1954, with plans to have his family join him later. Upon arriving, a strange feeling came over him, he wrote in his autobiography. "Unaccountably," he recalled, "it was as if I had come home after a long absence."

Lawrence settled in Toronto and landed a job as a reporter with *The Toronto Star*. Six months later, he quit, packed his car and drove almost nonstop 2,108 km to Rainy River, Ont., a town 430 km west of Thunder Bay on the U.S. border. It was New Year's Eve, 1954, when he arrived and, within days, he had purchased a 100-acre wilderness homestead. For almost three years, he survived by cutting wood on Crown land and selling it to a nearby pulp mill. His wife and son joined him in July, 1955. She stayed long enough to have a second child, a daughter, and experience winter in the Canadian wilderness before returning to England with the children, and filing for divorce. They are his only children and, although he has had some contact with them as adults, he does not see them often.

Lawrence left the homestead in October, 1957, and drove west with his dog, Yukon, who was part wolf. They spent 14 months in a remote wilderness region in northern British Columbia, never encountering another human being. "Some people think it was escapism," he says now, "but it wasn't. I wanted to achieve a sense of oneness with the environment."

In fact, Lawrence had settled on a lifestyle that he pursued until 1984 when, at age 63, he settled in his Haliburton property. He would take a newspaper job—for big-city dailies such as *Toronto Telegram* or obscure weeklies in places like Kitimat, B.C., and Assiniboia, Sask.—live frugally, save his money, then head for the wilderness. His second wife, a newspaper librarian whom he met in Winnipeg, died in June, 1969. He met Sharon, a former kindergarten teacher, in Toronto the fall of 1973, and they married two months later. "In our first 11 years of marriage," she says, "we moved seven times."

Lawrence's travels, a combination of adventure and biological research, have provided the raw material for his nature books. His first book, *Wildlife In Canada*, published in 1966, sold a few thousand copies and quickly disappeared. Later, he spent nine months tracking and observing a puma in southeastern British Columbia, which produced two books, *The Ghost Walker*, a nonfiction work, and later a novel, *The White Puma*. He has also devoted six months to studying a beaver colony in central Ontario and, in 1971, cruised up the West Coast from Victoria to Alaska in a 28-foot pleasure craft.

By trying to get as physically close to his subjects as possible, without disrupting the rhythm of their lives, he has witnessed some extraordinary natural phenomena. Lawrence tells of rabbits, under acute stress due to food shortages, committing suicide by crashing head first into trees. He reports seeing beavers and other herbivores eat flesh. Michal Polak, 31, an Ottawa native and longtime friend of Lawrence now teaching biology at Syracuse University, says that the naturalist and author has collected an enormous amount of information about wildlife, and that many of his works are textbook quality, but much more interesting.

Given his love of wild creatures and places, Lawrence is deeply offended by many of the practices of contemporary industrial societies. He can quickly become outraged, for example, when discussing clear-cut logging. And he is appalled by spring bear hunts and wolf kills aimed at preserving deer populations. "We are abusing the natural system," Lawrence says. "The official animal population counts are crazy. They are only estimates and the manner in which they are done doesn't make sense." But he has kept his anger out of his books to avoid turning them into polemics. "I don't let my feelings interfere with my writing," he says. "My goal is to inform the reader, and let the reader make the noise."

After decades of roaming the country, Lawrence rarely ventures far from his Haliburton property and his rambling, two-storey house. With its cedar exterior, pine interior panelling and big stone fireplace, the home exudes comfort and warmth. The land around it, he says, is a microcosm of the Canadian wilds: it has a pond, a creek flowing into a lake, granite outcroppings of the Canadian shield and plenty of wildlife. "I'm anchored," he says. "I'm too old to wander around with a pack on my back." But he is not too old to write, and is busy on his 31st book, which compares reactions to stress in humans and animals. Age may have cured his wanderlust. It has not dampened his creative energy. □



Allan Fotheringham

Money, Kim Campbell and Yoko Ono

Money is funny But it's always nice to have friends in high places Whether you're rich or poor, as the philosopher said, it's always nice to have money "The rich are different from you and I," F Scott Fitzgerald once wrote To which Ernest Hemingway retorted "Yes, they have more money"

The news that Jean Chrétien, that great philanthropist, has sent Kim Campbell to Los Angeles at about $130,000 with a mansion and a swimming pool makes one ponder about wealth

The Prime Minister is above all a politician, someone who has spent his entire adult life in politics, among politicians, thinking politics, absorbing politics, completely removed—when you think about it—from ordinary life He has quietly become a millionaire, because he was a once and future prime minister, and so he feels sorry for those not so lucky as he.



Kim Campbell—some of you may remember her name—has been a great gossip item for some time for those on the inside in Ottawa. After flaming upward like a rocket and then flaming out, and reducing her Tories to two seats, she had no real prospects in life

Fellow politicians knew she hadn't even served in the Commons long enough for the exceedingly generous (only six years required) pension plan She really, despite the advertisements, never had the graduate degrees that would give her a university post. After her flighty and brief career in a law firm in Vancouver, no legal beagles were interested in her.

She tried hotline radio Her attempt at book writing was roundly trounced. Twice divorced, her relationship with her Russian inventor of spring bounced shoes seems to be over Chrétien is above all someone who sees politics as the only thing in life A prime minister—however brief and disastrous—should not be left with a tin cup and pencils

His earlier attempt to ship her to Moscow as ambassador was killed (thankfully) by the horrified diplomatic professionals in Ottawa And so? A soft landing in La-La-Land, representing us all at Hollywood premières and hopefully a session at Vic Tanny's.

Money is funny Take the case of Julian Lennon. You will remember him for his surname Now 33, doomed to be one of those victims who have to go through life like Frank Sinatra Jr Not a hope

Firstborn son of John Lennon, the thinking Beatle who was gunned down by a nut outside his New York City home in 1980, Julian has just been granted—after 16 years of legal wrangles—a $40-million inheritance by the deadly Yoko Ono, his 63-year-old stepmother who has had her foot on the $500-million estate

The deadly Yoko has allowed that she has authorized the endowment to "clean up the books," before her own son, Sean, turns 21 in October Julian, who himself allows that he spent most of the 1980s in a drug haze, owns a flat in London, rents another in Los Angeles, and has a share in a Monaco restaurant, says he needs the money to restart his rock career Fat chance.

Money is funny We now move along to another son of a famous man The latter would be the once-celebrated Hollywood producer Sam Spiegel who turned out such film classics as *The Bridge on the River Kwai* with Alex Guinness and William Holden, *The African Queen* with Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, and *On the Waterfront* with Marlon Brando's unforgettable role

Adam Spiegel is the only son of Sam Spiegel His father was 67 when Adam was born, the product of a brief marriage to British actress Ann Pennington who was 43 years younger Adam has said "It sets up a very peculiar dynamic when you are six and your father is 73."

Adam is now 28 When his father died at 84, he did not leave Adam a cent. Sam left a fortune of more than $30 million, including an art treasure of Picassos, Monets and Matisses, Cezannes and Gauguins The whole fortune was left to charity—the Jerusalem Foundation

Now here's the rub Was the deadly Yoko trying to teach a lesson to Julian, who admits that God only knows what he would have done with all that gelt if he had got it 10 years ago?

Did Sam Spiegel, in his wisdom, decide that it would be better for his youthful son he could never relate to, to make it on his own? The kid spent his holidays jetting between dad's New York penthouse, his Barbados and St. Tropez villas and his yacht moored in Monte Carlo where the guests were the like of Lauren Bacall, Princess Grace, Henry Kissinger, Bogart and Brando Perhaps he thought this was all a bit too much And the kid needed some humility Today, the kid is trying to make it as a minor producer of musicals

Everyone has their own way of punishing their kids Some are so cruel as to name them Frank Sinatra Jr Some give them too much money Some give them too little When Sam Spiegel died, Adam was being expelled from an exclusive English private school for stealing a saxophone in order to support his slot-machine habit.

Everyone with money, which means power, uses money for different purposes Jean Chretien uses patronage—which is power thanks to taxpayers' money—to reward those who are within the political system He worked 30 years to become prime minister and so he wants to reward someone else who shared the same position, however briefly.

Money is funny.

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